

Local EMAS and Procurement

Newsletter 1 · Summer 2005

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Local Governments for
Sustainability

Green Public Purchasing has already contributed a great deal towards European environmental improvement, but there still exists a huge potential to further improve the environmental performance of the goods and services purchased by Public Authorities.

Recent research has shown that European public authorities buy huge amounts of goods, it is estimated they buy 2.8 million computers a year, if all the computers bought were energy efficient, significant savings, both in monetary cost and CO₂ emissions, could be made.

Despite the fact that green purchasing has been practiced by some pioneers throughout Europe for more than 10 years, change does not come easily. Action needs to be co-ordinated and follow a more systematic process. Furthermore, although prices for

green products may be higher for authorities buying on their own, combining the purchasing actions of several authorities could change this.

The LEAP project is lead by Leicester City Council who are working with 13 partners across Europe and ICLEI to investigate how to improve Public Procurement in Europe.

Aims of the LEAP project

The LEAP project started in November 2003 and is now at its half way stage.

The objectives of the LEAP project are to:

- Develop a suite of **tools and guidance** for public authorities to systematically, effectively and efficiently deal with green procurement as part of an Environmental Management System.
- Test **joint procurement** approaches to overcome market barriers in Europe for green procurement.



LEAP – Local Authority EMAS and Procurement – is a project of Leicester City Council with support from the European Commission's LIFE Environment Programme



*Alison Lea
Project Coordinator,
Leicester City Council*

“Leicester has had the lead in many European initiatives – I am happy that we have the chance to co-ordinate this important project as well.”

Why link green procurement with environmental management systems?

In most European public authorities procurement is a relatively decentralised process involving many individuals in different departments. Even where central purchasing units exist, some procurement responsibility will still rest with staff in other units. In such situations ensuring the implementation of green procurement requires effective communication between and within departments, and also the setting of clear priorities. In an increasing number of authorities environmental management

systems are being put in place to provide a useful framework for co-ordinating environmental improvements. As public procurement is an activity with substantial consequences in terms of environmental impact, it clearly makes sense to promote the integration of green procurement actions into such management systems. The LEAP project has developed a set of tools to facilitate the integration of green procurement principles into environmental management systems..

Practical Tools and Guidance

A set of 8 tools has been produced and tested by LEAP partners. During

summer 2005 they will be tested by local authorities across Europe

1 Standard Policy for Municipal Green Procurement

The tool uses a 5-step process based on the Procura+ milestone model that encourages continuous improvement and the formation of an action plan for green procurement. This tool also contains examples of good green procurement practice from across Europe

2 Managing the Procurement Process

This tool contains a set of Environmental Management System Procedures that seek to control and improve the environmental impacts related to each step of the public procurement process. The public procurement process has been broken down into 7 steps, an assessment of each step is made to determine whether the procurement exercise has a potential low, medium or high risk.

3 Dealing with Barriers to Green Procurement

This is a self assessment tool to help organisations identify barriers to green procurement, identify priority areas for change and an action plan to enable change to occur.

7 Standard Specifications

This tool offers guidance about how to develop environmental criteria for specific product groups; electricity, IT products, Building and Construction material, Food and Canteens and Transport Services

8 Tender Evaluation

This tool offers guidance about how to ensure the EU Public Procurement Directives are adhered to and how to ensure at Tender Evaluation environmental considerations can be evaluated.

9 Database of Specifications and Products

This tool brings together eco-labelling sites, Government sites and other green products information sites and will help authorities identify green alternatives to the current purchases.

10 Developing the Supply Chain

This tool offers guidance on how organisations can work with their suppliers to improve their environmental performance. The tool offers a number of ideas for working with suppliers including Training, Raising awareness and Marketing

11 Market Promotion and development

This tool offers guidance on how to work co-operatively with suppliers to enhance the market for environmentally responsible services and products and encourage post contract dialogue with suppliers.



*Helmut Lusser
Senior Researcher, Global to Local*
“If public authorities focused their effort on some priority products, much more could be achieved for Europe's environment.”

The Tools are currently being tested in local authorities in Sweden, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Iceland and the

United Kingdom. The Tools are available on the project website: www.iclei-europe?LEAP

Joint procurement – boosting the demand for greener products

One of the key aims of the LEAP project is to explore how joining the procurement actions of several authorities across Europe can help to develop the market for greener products. Public authorities acting together can provide a very welcome opportunity for suppliers of green products to establish themselves on the market. Furthermore, despite the common European market the price and availability of such products vary considerably from country to country.

The LEAP project is working to develop the following Joint Procurement Tools:

Tool 4

Joint Procurement Structure

Due to legal concerns it was not possible in the first procurement round to publish one tender and sign one framework contract for all the participating authorities. Instead two national consortia tendered jointly. Both Contract Notices were published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) on the same day, using identical specifications, and clearly referencing each other.

This action is currently ongoing. Further investigations will take place to determine whether a single joint procurement structure can be used.

Tool 5

Joint Procurement model

The co-ordinated procurement approach has resulted in the development of a universal set of tender documents for both national procurement rounds to use.

The documents will form the basis of the 2nd joint procurement, being amended where necessary.

Tool 6

Joint Procurement Activity

Two pilot joint procurement actions will take place within the project. The first of these was published in July 2005 for energy efficient TFT monitors and environmentally friendly cleaning materials. In the UK the action involved Lewisham, Sandwell, Leicester, ESPO, NEPO, Kent County Supplies, Hertfordshire County Supplies, and Newcastle. In Greece the municipalities of Amaroussion and Kalithea Rhodes participated.



*Peter Nohrstedt
Procurement Expert, Swedish Environmental Management Council*
“We want to bring Swedish experience to other European countries – and Swedish authorities should profit from falling prices for green products in Europe.”

Future Work

A second round of joint procurement will be taking place later in 2005/ early 2006 which will further investigate for joint procurement at the national and international level.

The final results of the LEAP project will be presented at the joint Eco-Procura 2006-LEAP Conference in September 2006. The conference is being jointly hosted by Barcelona Provincial Council and Barcelona City Council, and will bring together a wide group of public authority representatives and other stakeholders to discuss latest developments and tools in the field of sustainable procurement and exchange best practice.

More information

More information on the project, the project partners and the proceeding of the work can be found on the project's web site: <http://www.iclei-europe?LEAP>



*Francisco Neves
Environmental Expert, City of Almada*
“In countries like Portugal there is a growing belief that public purchasing has to become greener– we want to do it in the most efficient way from the start.”



Eren Andersson

Procurement Professional, Göteborg
“In Göteborg every administrative unit has to have an environmental management system – but the link to procurement still needs improvement.”

The project partners



The LEAP project partners bring a wealth of experience to the project from across Europe. Leicester City Council has had an EMAS systems and green purchasing policies for over five years and work closely with the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO), a purchasing consortium who purchase on behalf of Leicester City Council and a number of other large local authorities from the East Midlands region of the UK.

The 10 other local authority partners have different degrees of experience and are drawn from:

United Kingdom: London Boroughs of Lewisham, Sutton and Southwark and Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. *Greece:* Municipalities of Holargos, Amaroussion and Kalithea-Rhodes. *Sweden:* City of Göteborg. *Spain:* Barcelona Provincial Council. *Portugal:* City of Almada.

Global to Local are project partners and bring to the project a wealth of experience in both environmental management and green procurement.

ICLEI are consultants to the project, ICLEI have co-ordinated a number of European projects including the RELIEF project. ICLEI will bring their wide range of expertise and experience in both green procurement and environmental management systems to the project.

Registration Form

Mrs Mr

Title

First name

Last name

Organisation

Street / Postal Code

City

Country

E-mail.....

I would like to receive:

- More detailed information about the LEAP project
- Regular information about the LEAP project and other ICLEI activities

Please return to:

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