



Green Public Procurement

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT

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What is Green Public Procurement (GPP)

- Green Public Procurement (GPP) is defined in the Communication (COM (2008) 400) "Public procurement for a better environment" as "a process whereby public authorities seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle when compared to goods, services and works with the same primary function that would otherwise be procured".
- Public authorities as the major consumers in Europe, spend approximately 1.8 trillion euro annually, representing around 14 % of the EU's gross domestic product. By using their purchasing power to choose goods and services with lower impacts on the environment, they can make an important contribution to sustainable consumption and production.
- Green purchasing is also about influencing the market. By promoting and using GPP, public authorities can provide industry with real incentives for developing green technologies and products.

The scope of GPP

GPP have less impact on public health, natural resources and the environment.

Cyprus within the framework of its obligations to the European Union, has prepared and implemented its own National Action Plan (NAP) for promotion of Green Public Procurement, since 2007. Its implementation is an obligation of all contracting authorities in the public and semi-public sector, as well as local authorities, since it has been approved by the Council of Ministers.

We are working on the revision of the GPP NAP.

Why GPP?

GPP can help public authorities to save money, especially if the full life-cycle costs is taken into account rather than just the purchase price. For example, purchasing energy-efficient or water-saving products can reduce utility bills. Reducing hazardous substances in products can help reduce disposal costs.

Research and innovation, including eco-innovation and social innovation, are among the main keys of growth for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

According to EU Public Procurement Directive of 2014, green and social criteria are allowed and encourage buyers to choose the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT), rather than the cheapest.

Why GPP?

- Contracting authorities are able to request, either in the technical specifications, or the award criteria or the performance conditions of the contract, a specific label or certification, as proof of the conformity of the works, goods or services to the required characteristics.



GPP & EU Strategy

- Public procurement accounts for a large proportion of European consumption (nearly 20% of EU GDP). They play a key role in the circular economy goals, and the Commission encourages this role through its actions on Green Public Procurement (GPP), where criteria are developed at EU level and used by public authorities.
- The European Green Deal (launched on 11/12/2019) is the Commission's roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable. This will happen by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas and making the transition just and inclusive for all.
- The Circular Economy Action Plan is one of the main blocks of the European Green Deal and announces initiatives along the entire life cycle of products, targeting for example their design, promoting circular economy processes, fostering sustainable consumption, and aiming to ensure that the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible. It introduces legislative and non-legislative measures targeting areas where action at the EU level brings real added value.

GPP in Cyprus

- Cyprus National Action Plan (NAP) includes strategic targets and actions that aim to change the consumer model by adopting policies for sustainable production and consumption.
- Creating a 'Green Market', information and environmental awareness among the public authorities, and consumers, aims at creating demand for 'green products' and the development of new environmental technologies and goods.
- The basic concept of GPP relies on having clear, verifiable, justifiable and ambitious environmental criteria for products and services, based on a life-cycle approach and scientific evidence base. In the Communication “Public procurement for a better environment” ([COM \(2008\) 400](#)) the Commission recommended the creation of a process for setting common GPP criteria. The criteria used by Member States should be similar to avoid a distortion of the single market and a reduction of EU-wide competition. Having common criteria reduces considerably the administrative burden for economic operators and for public administrations implementing GPP.

Since 2008, the Commission has developed more than 20 common GPP criteria (GPP Toolkit)

There are two categories:

- Core criteria and
- Comprehensive criteria https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/eu_gpp_criteria_en.htm

The Department of Environment included GPP Toolkit criteria in the GPP National Action Plan since 2012.

Cyprus GPP Committee

Through the GPP National Action Plan a National Commission for GPP is established which consists of:

- Department of Environment
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Energy, Commerce Industry and Tourism
- Ministry of Defense
- Treasury
- Department of Government Purchasing and Supply
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Electrical and Mechanical Services
- Department of Information Technology Services
- Government Printing Office

Who implements GPP?

Who is required to implement the National Action Plan ?:

- State Authorities (Public Sector Contracting Authorities)
- Public Law Principles (Public Law Organizations)
- Local Authorities

have the choice either to adopt the National Plan, or to create their own GPP plan.

The implementation of the National Green Public Procurement Action Plan is mandatory for all the above, since it has been approved by the Council of Ministers (without any penalties)

The GPP National Action Plan includes:

- measures by category of products and services
- Environmental management measures
- the criteria of Toolkit (core and comprehensive)

GPP objectives

National Objective:

With certain exceptions, generally the target of 50% has been adopted for Cyprus GPP NAP.

The National GPP Action Plan is directly linked to the National Action Plan for Renewable Energy, of the Ministry of Energy, Commerce Industry and Tourism.



GPP Benefits

- reducing the consumption of natural resources
- energy saving
- energy production from renewable sources
- reduction of packaging waste
- reducing hazardous waste
- recycling and use of recycled materials
- promotion of organic farming
- improving the public image of Authorities and Organizations
- developing of new/innovative technologies
- encouraging Cypriot industries to produce "green" products
- saves money and resources when life-cycle costs are considered
- Green purchasing means setting an example for the general public and the private sector, and influencing the marketplace. is an effective way to demonstrate the public sector's commitment to environmental protection and to sustainable consumption and production.
- GPP can also act as a useful channel for raising environmental awareness by identifying the environmental impacts of a particular product/service throughout its life-cycle and providing information on the benefits of greener alternatives.. .
- Policies on GPP can improve services to the public and thus enhance quality of life

For example, serving organic and sustainable food in a public canteen is likely to increase awareness between users and providers of the service

Groups and product categories

1. Computer and monitors

2. Copying and graphic paper

3. Imaging Equipment

4. Electrical and Electronic Equipment used in the Health Care Sector

5. Electricity

6. Cleaning Products and Services

7. Sanitary Tapware

8. Toilets and Urinals

9. Office Building Design, Construction and Management

10. Furniture

11. Food Catering services and vending machines

12. Paints, varnishes and road markings

13. Textiles

14. Road Transport

15. Gardening Products and Services

16. Public Space Maintenance

17. Road Design, Construction and Maintenance

18. Road lighting and traffic signals

19. Waste Water Infrastructure

20. Water-based Heaters



GPP and Cyprus Public Authorities

The Department of Environment cooperates with Procurement Unit of the Treasury of Republic of Cyprus for the implementation of the GPP in the tenders of the public and wider public sector.

The **Treasury of Republic of Cyprus** manage to provide to all public authorities ecolabeled copying and graphic paper through the procurement procedure.

Also, environmental parameters have been incorporated into government procurements related to: Detergents, tissue paper, Paints/Varnishes, organic Food, Quality and environmental management systems, as well as the EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme)

The **Ministry of Defense** in Cyprus applies Green Public Procurement in different categories and uses environmental criteria in its tenders as in the example below:

- clothing for the needs of the army
- copying and graphic paper
- 9 army camps with grey water
- 5 camps with photovoltaics with total capacity of 265KW
- Management of their used oils (kitchens and garage)
- EU EMAS - Eco Management and Audit Scheme implemented in 6 army camps





CY GPP AWARDS

Cyprus Green Public Procurement Awards



The Department of Environment has been implementing the Green Public Procurement Awards (CY GPP AWARDS) annually, since 2014.

CY GPP AWARDS organizes by the Department of Environment in collaboration with the Cyprus Energy Agency. Due to the covid-19 pandemic, the awards for 2020 and 2021 did not carried out, but returned back in 2022, with an award ceremony that held on November 2022.

Initially, the awards were addressed only to Public and wider public sector entities for five categories of products and services. Since 2017, the categories were expanded, as the private sector was also integrated into the institution of the awards.



CY GPP AWARDS 2014



CY GPP AWARDS EU Ecolabel & EMAS 2015



CY GPP AWARDS & Italian GPP Awards 2016



CY GPP AWARDS 2017



CY GPP AWARDS 2018



CY GPP AWARDS 2019



CY GPP AWARDS 2022 & LIFE FOODPrint Awards 2022





LIFE-FOODprint

«Awareness-raising campaign to prevent and manage food waste among consumers, the food and hospitality industries»,

The project started in September 2020 and will last until April 2023, with a total budget of 1,018,869 euros. The project is led by Dias Publishing House.

Partners: Department of the Environment, OEB, Friends of the Earth, Opinion & Action Services and Parpounas Sustainability Consultants.

<https://www.foodprintcy.eu/el/>

The project objectives, is to reduce food waste through public awareness, and encouraging responsible behavior among targeted audiences, the promotion of practical solutions and the creation of a social network with the inclusion of interested businesses. The project is addressed to: consumers/households/students/youth, Businesses & professionals in hospitality and catering, Local and national agencies, organizations Public sector and policy makers.

Actions: Communication campaigns (Online, Print & TV media), Researches, an educational material was developed for schools, Training professionals and students in catering and hospitality to reduce food waste, Consultations with businesses, professionals and organized groups, Collaboration platform for food supply,

<https://foodprintcy.eu/collaboration-platform/el/>, Awards for best practices (FOODPrint Awards)

Also a tool was developed to calculate food waste, the Food Waste Calculator [Foodprint Calculator \(foodprintcy.eu\)](https://foodprintcy.eu/food-waste-calculator/)

Through the project, a Green Procurement Guide was developed, as well as a good practice guide for businesses and a guide with smart ways to reduce food waste for the public, which will also be promoted to the Contracting Authorities.



GPP & financed programs

The Department of Environment participated also in other financed programs:

- the project Grasp – Green procurement and Smart city support in the energy sector (partner) and Graspinno that were financed by Interreg Med
- the Project GreenS – Green public procurement supporters for innovative and sustainable institutional change (6/2015 until 5/2018) that financed by Horizon 2020



Project co-financed by the European
Regional Development Fund



GPP and SUP

In June 2019, Directive 2019/904/EU on reducing the impact of certain plastic products on the environment was published in the Official Journal of the EU. The Directive was incorporated into national legislation, with the Waste Law (N.48(I)/2022).

The scope of this legislation is to prevent and reduce the effects of single-use plastics (SUP) on the environment, and especially on the aquatic environment, and on human health, as well as the promotion of the circular economy with innovative and sustainable business models and products.

Through this legislative framework, certain single-use plastic items are regulated, through bans, measures to reduce consumption, mandatory labeling, extended producer responsibility, separate collection, etc.

According to the SUP legislation, Public procurement and GPP should be adapted, so tenders should include less or no plastic products, that correspond to the items fall within the legislation, more environmentally friendly, promoting the circular economy with innovative and sustainable products.

ECO LABEL - EMAS

- The Department of Environment is the Competent Body for the EU Eco Label and the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme EMAS.
- Up to date, Cyprus has awarded the EU Eco Label to 84 products in the category paints/ varnishes.
- Also in the EMAS Register, more than 80 organizations / companies, have been recorded, most of them have also received funding by government.





Useful links

Department of Environment:

http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environment.nsf/index_en/index_en?OpenDocument

Treasury of the Republic of Cyprus

http://www.treasury.gov.cy/Treasury/treasurynew.nsf/page21_en/page21_en?OpenDocument

Cyprus Energy Agency

<https://www.cea.org.cy/en/>

Green Public Procurement:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm

EU Ecolabel:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/index_en.htm

EMAS:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm

Life FODPrint

<https://www.foodprintcy.eu/el/>



Thank you for your attention!

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Department of Environment
www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environment.nsf

