

EMAS - Newsletter

The European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme

Improving your environmental
and business performance

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas>



Editorial



Green Public Procurement offers a huge market for development in reducing a range of environmental impacts from the production, use and disposal of goods and services of all kinds. Experience from the use of EMS in private sector organisations confirms that the early involvement of materials suppliers and service contractors provides the key to sustained environmental improvement. In Europe, significant spending is attributable to the public authorities, offering a real opportunity for environmental improvement and eco-innovation. It is estimated that public authorities could achieve 18% of the EU Kyoto target by buying 'green' electricity. Environmental improvements could be made by purchasing energy efficient computers, non-toxic cleaning products, organic food and operating sustainable buildings and low-emission buses.

The EU Council has, in its renewed Sustainable Development Strategy, set an EU-wide target for green public procurement by 2010, based on the current average performance of the best performing member states. According to an EU wide study of 2006, in these states, more than 40% of all analysed tender documents included "green" criteria.

Evidence shows that EMAS can be used either as a tool to improve green purchasing practices in public administrations, or to boost SMEs in the service and construction sector in adopting an EMS and improving environmental performance of their products and services and related processes.

The EMAS Team, Environment Directorate General, Unit G2, European Commission.

EMAS and Green Public procurement

Report

EMAS and Green Public Procurement

EMAS can be applied to public sector purchasers wishing to promote a greener purchasing policy. EMAS also offers major advantages for client and supplier, as it may offer evidence of compliance with environmental specifications or selection criteria.

Public procurement is often a decentralised process with different individuals or elements of an organisation involved. Efficient information transfer is often at risk and systems such as EMAS provide clear guidelines for internal communication and reporting structures.

Recognising the consequences for the environment from public procurement 'green



purchasing' constitutes a major opportunity for an organisation wishing to improve its environmental performance.

An environmental management system also allows organisations to structure and monitor their environmental policy objectives and public authorities wishing to apply green public procurement may benefit from of a formal EMS. Many public authorities have put an EMS in place to promote the integration of green procurement.

Continued on next page >

Continuation from page 1 >

For the supplier, EMAS can be used as a way of demonstrating compliance with environmental selection criteria during the performance of the contract. In some cases, when services and works contracts call for the adoption of environmental management measures during their execution, the contracting authority can ask bidders to demonstrate their capacity to apply environmental management measures throughout the contract. Here, registration under EMAS, or a comparable EMS, e.g. EN/ISO 14001, should be recognised as proof of compliance with this selection criterion. Any requirement that contracting authorities impose on the bidders

and their bids must be linked to the purchased product/service itself. Registration under an environmental management scheme may say something about the general environmental performance of the company, but not necessarily about the environmental soundness of the products that are the subject of the tender. There are some public administrations in Europe that make use of EMAS or ISO 14001 in their supply contracts, but are now non-compliant with the new public procurement directives. These directives are not in favour of promoting EN/ISO 14001 and EMAS to suppliers of goods and products.

Interview

Tuscan regional environmental protection agency sets example in green procurement

Renowned for its natural beauty, its architecture and its art, Tuscany is also a significant manufacturing centre with over 100 000 employees in the key exporting sectors of leather processing and textile manufacturing and also furniture and tissue paper manufacturing. The Agenzia regionale per la protezione ambientale della Toscana (ARPAT - the Regional Agency for the Protection of the Environment in Tuscany) operates 19 offices around the region, with about 900 employees engaged in monitoring and control, information, education and diffusion of EMAS and Ecolabel schemes. In support of its own bid for EMAS registration, ARPAT has introduced various environmental criteria for purchasing.

The EMAS initial review at ARPAT's procurement department identified two main environmental aspects: procurement of raw material consumption (a direct environmental aspect) and procurement as a management issue (an indirect environmental aspect). The Agency seeks to address these two aspects through its Procurement Management and Procurement Operating Procedures. The Procurement Management Procedure includes a relevant Agency policy on purchasing which directs its

annual procurement programme and the selection of suppliers. It uses quality system indicators - the availability of ecological criteria in its product and service categories and the scale of green procurement achieved in each category - to measure its performance. ARPAT's Procurement Operating Procedures require the integration of environmental criteria into low budget procurement and the communication of voluntary environmental tools - life cycle analysis, environmental labelling, eco-design and environmental management systems - to its suppliers.

ARPAT, whose Lucca office was registered to ISO 14001 in December 2006 and is now seeking EMAS registration, sees the integration of procurement within their environmental management system as essential development. It seeks to make it simple, nonetheless, and sustainable criteria are developed by an internal working group. These criteria are then incorporated in the intranet-based procurement procedures and available to all purchasing staff. The criteria also include useful indicators with which to monitor the overall procurement process.

ARPAT is justifiably proud of his achievements so far and is active in spreading information and support to local authorities in the region and in



participating in Italian and Tuscan groups working on sustainable procurement. It has participated to the LIFE project 'PIONEER' (Paper Industry Operating in Network: an Experiment for EMAS Revision) which has the aim of defining and experimentally apply a methodology based on the EMAS Regulation to the paper-industry territorial cluster of Lucca.

Simone Ricotta says 'We see clear benefits in leading by example on EMAS within the region and in developing more sustainable tools for procurement as part of the system'.

More information is available from Simone Ricotta:
s.ricotta@arpat.toscana.it



Best practice

Green procurement the role of the local authority environmental management and procurement project LEAP



Effective supply chain management can be a business benefit in providing essential materials and services at the right place, at the right time and at the right price, as well as minimising the costly overhead which the procurement team often represents. With the focus on more sustainable processes, integration of environmental considerations into mainstream business activities, in both private and public sector organisations, has become a priority.

Integration of sustainable procurement within an environmental management system, for example EMAS, contributes to this focus and, in 2003, the EU's LIFE fund supported a project to demonstrate best practice in the public sector. Led by the Local authority of Leicester and the UK sustainability consultancy, Global to Local, the project sought to develop tools for local authorities to systematically, effectively and efficiently deal with green procurement as part of an EMS. Eleven cities in Europe committed themselves to the project and were also able to develop protocols that won environmental and financial benefit through implementing environmental management procedures in their purchasing departments.

The Local Authority Environmental Management and Procurement Project breaks the procurement process down into a range of activities, eight in all, ranging from the promotion of a green economy, the examination of environmental specifications, through to a tool applying environmental management system protocols to particular points in the procurement procedures. 'Tool B' recommends the application of environmental management systems and procedures to contracts with a potential value in excess of the currently applicable EC threshold values. Starting from 31/1/06, this threshold is €137,000 for goods and services in those countries that have adopted the new consolidated directive. It incorporates templates for environmental risk assessments, for site inspections and

monitoring and reporting, supplier environmental questionnaires and sample environmental clauses for contracts. In discussing the integration of procurement procedures, this tool also provides direction on the potential environmental impacts of each stage in the process. The planning phase, the production of documents, the implementation of the contract and its monitoring are identified as 'high risk' phases. The user will also find flow diagrams supporting guidance on, for example, the preparation of contract documentation.

Other tools are also helping public authorities in promoting a green market

Tool H shows how to develop supply chain management approaches that will encourage suppliers to improve the environmental quality of their products and services over time.

Apart from the eight modules, the tool also incorporates two portals - entitled Incorporating Environmental Criteria into Procurement and Developing a strategy for employing green procurement in your organisation - which guide the reader to selected modules, relevant to those two key topics.

Sutton Borough Council in London, a pioneer of EMAS in local authorities, has revitalised its environmental management system through the streamlining of its monitoring processes, abandonment of 'paper' documentation and increasing staff engagement. Sustainable procurement is a priority and the new internet-based management toolkit provides a list of staff who let tenders for goods and services, helps identify 'contract leakage' and ensures the use of environmentally compliant contractors. It also helps with training needs analysis for those in the procurement role. Katherine points out: 'These benefits are receiving very positive feedback from colleagues, senior managers and our auditors!'

Anne Dodd from the Leicester's City Council said that « Participation in the LEAP project has brought a wide exchange of experiences in 'green procurement' across the community and, in the case of Leicester City Council, has provided the vehicle for a major development in sustainable procurement procedures by their central purchasing services. »



LEAP Project website: <http://www.leap-gpp-toolkit.org>

EMAS website

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas>



EMAS in figures

In the first half of 2007, even more success in EMAS was reported. A total of 5587 sites and 3725 organisations are in the EMAS register as of June 30th, which equals to a plus of 6.9% in sites and 5.4% in organisations. This equals to more than 1.6 Mill. people working in these sites.

Registered

	organisations	and sites
Austria	264	471
Belgium	39	333
Bulgaria	0	0
Cyprus	0	0
Czech Republic	28	30
Denmark	110	278
Estonia	2	2
Finland	40	48
France	17	17
Germany	1,486	1,984
Greece	55	58
Hungary	8	11
Ireland	7	7
Italy	648	841
Latvia	1	1
Lithuania	0	0
Malta	1	1
Luxembourg	1	1
Netherlands	13	17
Norway	27	27
Poland	7	7
Portugal	57	62
Slovak Republic	5	5
Slovenia	1	1
Spain	772	958
Sweden	71	72
United Kingdom	65	365
TOTAL	3,725	5,587

Leading industrial sectors:

Sectors	Organisations
• Chemicals	264
• Food and beverages	263
• Sewage and refuse disposal	255
• Fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	232
• Electricity, gas, steam and hot water supply	191

Leading service sectors:

Sectors	Organisations
• Hotels and restaurants	228
• Public authorities	210
• Other business activities	171
• Education	152

News

The New EUROPA website on Green Public Procurement and the Buying Green! Handbook on green public procurement

This new website proposes:

- examples of national/local GPP strategies
- a continuous upload of good practices and projects
- links to databases containing environmental specifications
- a green public procurement toolkit dedicated to trainers (will soon be available)

The Buying Green ! handbook, available in 20 EU languages, explains in concrete terms how environmental considerations can be integrated into public procurement procedures. It :

- clarifies the legal possibilities of integrating environmental considerations in a tender's technical specifications, selection and award criteria and contract performance clauses
- takes into account the most recent jurisprudence of the Court of Justice in this area
- includes concrete examples of environmental tendering by local authorities in Europe

To download the Handbook in PDF or order a printed version, please visit the Europa website on Green Public Procurement: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/guideline_en.htm

Procura+ Campaign

Procura+ is an initiative designed to help support public authorities across Europe in implementing Sustainable Procurement – and help promote their achievements. The Campaign was established in 2004 by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. Any public or semi-public authority or agency in Europe can join the Campaign, of any size and any level of experience. It is not necessary to be a big authority to make a difference through sustainable procurement. What is important is encouraging authorities to work together.



The Procura+ Campaign Manual provides clear, easy-to-understand guidance for any public authority on how to implement sustainable procurement in practice. It provides specific guidance for the purchase of buses, cleaning and maintenance products and services, green electricity, food and catering services, IT equipment, building construction/renovation. The manual is available in english, french, german, catalan, greek and italian.

More information on the Campaign's website: <http://www.procuraplus.org>

The EMAS newsletter is published by the EMAS Helpdesk on behalf of the European Commission. An electronic copy is available on the Internet at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm or by subscribing to the mailing list.

For a free subscription, comments or further information send an email to the EMAS Helpdesk at: emas@ec.europa.eu or write to the following address:

EMAS Helpdesk
c/o Umweltbundesamt GmbH — Spittelauerlände 5 — A-1090 Vienna — Austria
Voicemail/Fax: + 43 1 31304 7000 /5859

Upcoming events

March 2008
Toulouse, France
International workshop EMAS easy South

27-30 November 2007

Paris, France
POLLUTEC – EMAS conference

For the exact date and schedule visit the HYPERLINK "http://POLLUTEC web site" POLLUTEC web site: www.pollutec.com

08-11 October 2007

Brussels, Belgium
OPEN DAYS - European Week of Regions and Cities 2007

Session: "Eco-efficient SMEs: environmental management, eco-label and green public procurement as a driver for structural changes". The exact date and programme can be found here: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2007/index.cfm

09 October 2007

Leoben, Austria
EcoEfficiency Workshop

October 2007

Lérida, Spain
Municipalia - XIV International Exhibition on Municipal Services and Equipments

More information available later this year.

October 2007

Barcelona, Spain
Post-grade on Environmental Management of enterprises and public organisations

Further information can be found under <http://www.ub.es/dppss/psicamb/gestio.htm>

25-26 September 2007

Austria
EMAS prepares the ground to the ecological local authority

More information on the agenda of the 6 day workshop for local authorities is available from: hermine.dimitroff@eco4ward.at

21-23 September 2007

Bienno, Lombardia, Italy
Fair Think global, Act local

More information on the EMAS fair is available under http://www.bienno.info/bin/index.php?id=1&canale=&tpl=nt&id_news=12&PN_3=0&PN_2=0

26 July 2007

Leeds, UK
Public sector Environmental Management Systems Networking Event

Leeds Town Hall: Presentation of the Environmental Management Systems Network. To register contact Karen Dixon: k.dixon@iemas