



# Are you practising Green Public Procurement?

The LEAP partners are!

The LEAP project (Local Authority Environmental Management Systems and Procurement) is co-funded by the European Commission's LIFE-Environment Programme. It is led by Leicester City Council working with ten other European local authorities and procurement and environmental experts to investigate how to improve green public procurement in Europe.

**LEAP**

Local Authority  
Environmental Management  
and Procurement





## Why LEAP?

All local authorities across Europe are responsible for buying a wide range of goods in very large quantities, ranging from food to stationary to computer equipment to building materials, all of which impact on the environment. It is estimated that European public authorities buy 2.8 million computers a year; if all the computers were energy efficient, significant savings in energy could be made. This would result in cost savings from using less electricity and also a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

If local authorities were to harness their buying power and specify products that were less environmentally damaging, significant reductions environmental damage could be achieved and better prices for these 'greener' products may be obtained.

### Why link green procurement with environmental management systems?

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

In most European local authorities procurement is a relatively decentralised process involving many individuals in different departments. Even where central purchasing units exist, some responsibility will rest with staff in other departments. In such situations the implementation of green procurement requires effective communication between, and within, departments and clear priorities need to be set.

In authorities where an environmental management system is in place there exists a useful framework for co-ordinating environmental improvements. Procurement is an activity with the potential to have a huge impact (good and bad)

on the environment and it makes sense to integrate green procurement actions into environmental management systems.

For the past three years, the LEAP Project partners have worked together to share valuable experiences and best practice and have developed a set of practical tools and guidance to help European local authorities consider environmental issues throughout the procurement process. The LEAP Project has also developed and tested joint procurement methods to combine the spending power of organisations, to try and encourage the market for environmentally friendly goods and achieve cost savings.

### Key Project Outcomes

The tools and guidance produced have been combined into 'The LEAP Toolkit' launched at the EcoProcura conference in Barcelona in September 2006. The Toolkit is available on-line at [www.leap-gpp-toolkit.org](http://www.leap-gpp-toolkit.org) and is also available on CD-ROM.





**Tool A:** Green Procurement Policy: a 5-step process based on the Procura+ milestone model and contains examples of good green procurement policies.

**Tool B:** Integrating green procurement into EMS: a set of EMS procedures to control and improve the environmental impacts throughout the procurement process.

**Tool C:** Barriers to effective green procurement: a self assessment tool to help organisations identify barriers to green procurement and identify priority areas

**Tool D:** Joint procurement models: examples of joint procurement activities in Europe and guidance on how to initiate joint procurement.

**Tool E:** Standard specifications: guidance on developing specifications for seven key products that local authorities buy

**Tool F:** Environmental demands in procurement: information on how to include environmental criteria into procurement and how to evaluate tenders

**Tool G:** Information on specifications, products etc: a database of information sources to help identify green alternatives to current purchases

**Tool H:** Promoting a green market: guidance on how to work with suppliers to improve the environmental performance of goods and develop markets through the supply chain

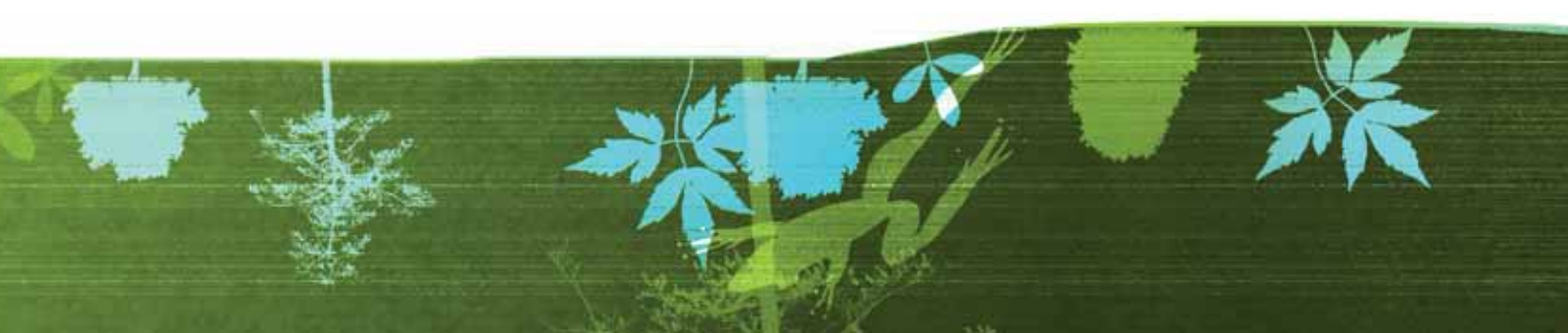
## Project Partners:

The LEAP project partners have a wealth of experience of both environmental management and green procurement. Leicester City Council has an environmental management system (EMAS) and works closely with the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) who purchase on behalf of Leicester City Council and other local authorities from the East Midlands region of the UK. Other local authority partners are: *United Kingdom:* London Boroughs of Lewisham, Sutton and Southwark and Sandwell Metropolitan Council. *Greece:* Municipalities of Holargos, Amaroussion and Kalithea-Rhodes. *Sweden:* City of Goteborg. *Spain:* Barcelona Provincial Council. *Portugal:* Municipality of Almada. Global to Local Ltd and the Swedish Environmental Management Council are project partners and are both very experienced in environmental management and green procurement.

ICLEI are consultants to the project and have contributed their green procurement and environment experience.

Further Information can be found on the project website: [www.leap-gpp-toolkit.org](http://www.leap-gpp-toolkit.org)

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