

Sustainable Public Procurement at ICLEI Europe

ICLEI has been working on procurement since 1996, assisting hundreds of cities, regions and public authorities to embed sustainable, circular and innovation criteria into public tenders directly and through collaboration projects.

Sustainable public procurement (SPP) is about using public spending to achieve social and environmental objectives, and to strategically use the public sector's economic power to catalyse innovation both in the private and public sectors. Public procurement accounts for about a fifth of Europe's GDP, and public authorities' purchasing decisions impact millions of people through the supply chain. SPP makes this impact a positive one.

Every purchasing decision we make has an impact on the environment, economy and society as a whole. Procurement therefore provides a practical mechanism to address greenhouse gas emissions, local air and water quality, use of hazardous substances and raw material usage, and is integral to shift to a circular economy.



“Procurement practices can, when strategically used, enable a green transition, create new employment opportunities, new market opportunities for start-ups and small and medium sized firms, provide decent working conditions in global supply chains, and promote gender equality.”

At the same time, procurement can also support cities in making financial savings whilst delivering better public services in more efficient and effective ways.”

Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh,
Mayor of Malmö
(Sweden)



Our experts in procurement offer training and technical assistance to local and regional governments and represent them in European and global policy processes in order to:

- ✦ **Support public authorities in developing capabilities** to implement sustainable, circular, strategic and innovation procurement via tailor-made strategies, processes and practices;
- ✦ **Use public procurement as a catalyser** to accelerate the market introduction of innovative and sustainable technologies;
- ✦ **Push for mandatory green and social public procurement requirements** either through technical specifications, award criteria and contract clauses in the sectoral directives or through delegated acts to the procurement directives. A voluntary approach is not sufficient.

ICLEI INVOLVEMENT IN STRATEGIC FRAMEWORKS

Procurement is one of the key cross-cutting mechanisms to achieve **ICLEI's five interconnected pathways**, designed to facilitate integrated sustainable urban development.

ICLEI has a powerful voice on the European and international stage being a member of the **European Commission's Green Public Procurement Advisory Group** representing local governments.

ICLEI Europe is also co-founder and Vice- Chair of the **International Green Purchasing Network (IGPN)** and Co-Lead of the **United Nations One Planet Network Sustainable Public Procurement Programme**.

IMPACT

Direct SPP implementation via **100+** international projects, providing tender advice, training, exchange and networking

Strong Procura+ and Global Lead City Networks involving both political decision makers and practitioners working on a day-to-day basis with **75+** public authorities worldwide

More than **1,5+** tons CO₂ savings via strategic use of public procurement



OPPORTUNITIES

ICLEI's extended networks - **the Procura+ Network** represents 45+ European public authorities that connect, exchange and act on sustainable, circular and innovation procurement.

Big Buyers Working Together for Climate and Environment is a European Commission Initiative for promoting collaboration between big public buyers in implementing strategic public procurement for sustainable solutions.

Procura+ Awards highlight sustainable, circular and innovation procurements and initiatives and give visibility to the most dynamic, forward-looking and innovative public authorities and their initiatives.

Global Lead City Network are a group of cities which have established clear and measurable targets and are strategies that underpin their implementation.

RESOURCES

[15 Frequently asked questions on socially responsible public procurement](#)

A report, published by the European Commission, written with support by ICLEI, collecting 71 good practice cases on how public buyers have implemented socially responsible public procurement (SRPP).

[Procuring zero emission delivery of goods and services](#)

A guide designed to assist city administrations to use their public procurement activities strategically to help reduce traffic in urban areas, and promote the use of zero emission vehicles in urban logistics.

[How to procure fair ICT](#)

A criteria document to support experienced procurers in leveraging public purchases of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) hardware to positively impact working conditions across the electronics supply-chain.

Find all our resources at the [Sustainable Public Procurement Resource Centre](#).

Connect with us:

- ✉ procurement@iclei.org
- 🌐 www.iclei-europe.org/topics/procurement-economy
- ✂ twitter.com/ICLEI_Europe

ICLEI Europe

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.

