

Sustainable Public Procurement at ICLEI Europe

ICLEI has been working on sustainable public procurement since 1996, assisting hundreds of cities, regions and public authorities. Firstly, 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 some 14% of the EU's GDP and every purchasing decision, for services, works and supplies, impacts the environment, economy and society. Therefore, public procurement is a key way in which sustainability can be delivered.



The Sustainable and Innovation Procurement (SIP) team at ICLEI Europe focuses on promoting Green Public procurement (GPP), including circular procurement, to help city governments and other public authorities reduce their environmental impact through the purchase of sustainable goods and services. The team also encourages the adoption of Socially Responsible Public Procurement (SRPP) practices to amplify aspects in public contracts such as job opportunities, decent work, respect for social and labour rights, social inclusion, among others. Finally, the SIP team promotes Innovation Procurement, both through novel tendering procedures such as pre-commercial procurement (PCP) and Public procurement of Innovation solutions (PPI) to harness competitiveness and the dual green and digital transition in cities.

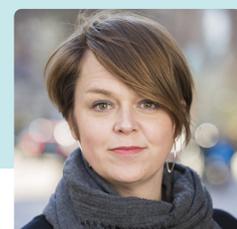
Specifically, the SIP team:

- ✦ Delivers professional training, technical assistance and networking opportunities for public procurement professionals and to local and regional government representatives. This includes representing them on the European and global stage.
- ✦ Tracks and provides input into key policy-making processes of the European Institutions, such as the Public Procurement, Ecodesign, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Energy Market, and Energy Performance of Buildings Directives as well as the policies implemented through the European Green Deal, such as the Circular Economy Action Plan, and the Farm to Fork Strategy, among others.

“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)



- ✦ Supports public authorities in developing their public procurement strategies and by drafting guidelines on the best public procurement procedure to choose, as well as case studies and reports.
- ✦ Facilitates city-to-business collaboration to accelerate the market introduction of innovative, circular and sustainable technologies.
- ✦ Manages the European Union's (EU) GPP Helpdesk to promote and disseminate information on green public procurement best practices from all over the European Union.
- ✦ Conducts research, and develops methodologies and tools to support the implementation of sustainable, circular, socially responsible and innovation procurement.
- ✦ Organises the Procura+ Conference and seminars based on the strong network of 45+ European public authorities from 17 European countries.
- ✦ Collaborates with city governments, national governments, public procurement professionals, experts, non-profit organisations and other stakeholders on EU-funded projects that promote the implementation of sustainable procurement practices.
- ✦ Advocates at the European level and puts forward recommendations for policies and tools that support the implementation of sustainable public procurement at various levels of governance.

ICLEI INVOLVEMENT IN STRATEGIC FRAMEWORKS

Procurement is one of the key cross-cutting mechanisms to achieve ICLEI's five interconnected pathways (Zero emission development pathway, Nature-based development pathway, Equitable development pathway, Resilient development pathway, Circular development pathway), designed to facilitate integrated sustainable urban development.

ICLEI has a powerful voice on the European and international stage. ICLEI is a member of the European Commission's Green Public Procurement Advisory Group which acts as a sounding board for policy development on the topic. Its role on this group is to represent the perspectives and interests of subnational governments.

ICLEI Europe co-founded the Sustainable Procurement Programme (SPP) of the United Nations One Planet Network (OPN).

ICLEI continues to be involved in the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ECESP), and its Circular Procurement Leadership Group. ECESP is a joint initiative by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee, which brings together all the organisations (stakeholders) that work on promoting a circular economy.

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

The Big Buyers Working Together is a European Commission project that fosters for promoting collaboration between big public buyers in implementing strategic public procurement for sustainable solutions.

The Smart Cities Marketplace (SCM), provides technical assistance and consultancy services to city-led consortia nearing the financing stage.

RESOURCES

- ✦ Explore the [Case studies on GPP](#);
- ✦ The [Procura+ Manual](#) is a one stop shop for strategic public procurement guidance and case studies;
- ✦ See the [71 Good practices cases](#) on how public buyers have implemented socially responsible public procurement (SRPP);
- ✦ ICLEI through the Smart Cities Marketplace has published a [Solution Booklet](#) that presents an extensive list of common characteristics that foster the adoption of sustainable and intelligent solutions in procurement processes;
- ✦ ICLEI also curated a collection of [15 case studies](#) that illustrate how local authorities can support the development of nZEB skills through procurement;
- ✦ Find all our resources and more at the Sustainable Public Procurement Resource Centre: to learn more, [click here](#).

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Connect with us:

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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.