

Greener road lighting: new EU guidance for public procurement

On 10 December, the European Commission released new guidance for greening public procurement of road lighting equipment, covering new installations and retrofits. The guidance also covers traffic signals/lights. The recommendations are an update of the guidance developed a few years ago, and come in the form of practical criteria ([EU GPP Criteria](#)) which can be inserted into public calls for tender.

The environmental aspects covered by the new EU GPP criteria for road lighting are split into three areas: energy consumption, light pollution and lifetime. An accompanying technical report and a guidance (coming online soon) document provide further rationale supporting the selection of these criteria and references for further information. Procurement of traffic signals is considered separately, using criteria that are predominantly centred on life cycle costs.



1.3% of all electricity consumed in 2005 (by the EU25) was by road lighting installations - thus the use phase is the dominant impact category, according to life cycle assessment studies.

Complimenting the new guidance, a number of good practice cases from cities are available online, such as from [Rotterdam](#), [Župa Dubrovačka](#) (in Croatia), and [Jimena de la Frontera](#). More good practice examples are available from the website of the [Premium Light Pro project](#). The new EU GPP Criteria will be available in all official EU languages in the coming months.



Zoom in on... Consultation on EU Product Policy

Product policy has an important role in the transition to the circular economy, and is part of the implementation of the [Circular Economy Action Plan](#), adopted by the European Commission (EC) in 2015. The EC is running an [online consultation](#) in an effort to obtain feedback from a range of stakeholders involved in purchasing, using or consuming products. The consultation runs until 24 January 2019.

KEINO - the strategic partnership embarking upon sustainable procurement in Finland



Isa-Maria Bergman is the Director of Circular Economy and Sustainable Procurement at [Motiva](#) - a company specialising on sustainable development,

fully-owned by the Finnish government. She has some 15 years experience working on sustainable procurement, and now also coordinates the [Competence Centre for Sustainable and Innovative Public Procurement \(KEINO\)](#) in Finland.

Could you tell us a bit about how and why KEINO was set up?

Sustainable and innovative public procurement has been a strategically recognised tool for the last 10 years. However, coordination of our efforts has

certainly been lacking, as has knowledge of the real impacts of public procurement. KEINO was founded to consolidate these two issues under one umbrella. It began operation this year on 1 March.

KEINO is a competence centre formed by a strategic partnership between eight organisations working as a network towards joint objectives - such as, increasing the number of strategic, sustainable and innovative procurements carried out. The centre is funded by the [Ministry of Employment and Economy](#), and jointly steered by a conclave of six ministries.

To read the interview in full, click [here](#).



Zoom in on... Data Centres and Public Space Maintenance

The third and final rounds of public consultation are taking place for the development of [EU GPP Criteria](#) for the two above-mentioned product areas. Consultation on the final set of proposals for [Data Centres](#) is open until 11 January, while 6 January is the last date for comments on the Criteria for [Public Space Maintenance](#).



GPP good practice

Procurement of sustainable, customer-oriented transport services - City of Rotterdam (Netherlands)

In Rotterdam, 30,000 citizens with special needs make use of transportation services. There are different services available to different target groups, which in the past has led to fragmented and sometimes insufficient services. The City of Rotterdam decided to integrate all mobility services, operate their fleets more efficiently, and, as a result, provide transportation that serves the needs of their customers best.



Image: Pexels / Rawpixel

Rotterdam undertook comprehensive customer-focused research to uncover the unmet needs and customer journeys that called for multidisciplinary solutions. The city used an innovative Forward Commitment Procurement procedure, with a competitive dialogue process that included representatives from end user groups giving direct feedback. The winning contractor is a consortium of various market parties that is now implementing a user-centred transportation service with mechanisms for constant improvement. Results include an accelerated transition to nearly fully zero emission (electric) and annual investment exceeding two million euro in social return on investment.

Download the full case study [here](#).

Circular catering services for the Pļaviņu Gymnasium (Latvia)

In 2018, Plavīnu, a town of 5,000 inhabitants in Latvia, decided to embark on the circular economy path and improve its school catering contract by including a number of requirements aimed at fostering circularity. Plavīnu is taking part in the [Circular Public Procurement \(PP\)](#) project, and aims to introduce the principles of circular economy thinking in its public procurement strategies and practices.



Image: Dreamstime / Iah Al...

Pļaviņu Municipality wanted to sustain good quality catering in its school for a reasonable price. As such, the procurement criteria were designed to include aspects such as nutrition and health, organic products, seasonal fruit and vegetables, waste minimisation and environmentally friendly transportation. The new catering contract is now free of single-use dishes, includes requirements for the contractor to minimise waste (through analysis and then reduction), and measures to monitor the origin and quantities of organic products.

Download the full case study [here](#).



Image: Pixabay / Picography

Zoom in on... France plans to end 'imported deforestation'

In a joint statement issued on 14 November, five French ministries [proposed 17 measures](#) aimed at putting a halt by 2030 to deforestation caused by imports of non-sustainable forest or agricultural products, such as palm oil, soy and beef. Practical guidance on the implications the new strategy will have on public procurement decisions will be published in 2019.

[More information...](#)



Image: Pexels / Rawpixel

Zoom in on... Healthcare sector

A brief overview of good practice and recommendations on sustainable procurement for hospitals and healthcare are available in a Fact Sheet published by [Healthcare without Harm Europe](#) called [Reducing the Carbon Footprint of Healthcare through Sustainable Procurement](#).

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