

International Sustainable Acquisition Research Project



Louise Evans

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Objective

To understand ways in which other national governments have leveraged public procurement to advance sustainability goals, especially GHG and energy reduction related goals.

Method

- We developed a questionnaire in close liaison with GSA team, focusing on key points GSA wanted to understand.
- Questionnaire used as the basis for telephone interviews.
- First interviewed national policy lead, further contacts flowed from this.

	Interviews Completed
Australia	5
Brazil	14
European Commission	3
Germany	5
Netherlands	2
United Kingdom	11
Total	40

1. The focus of GPP appears to be energy efficiency

- Sustainability is the key focus - the key impacts are identified for each procurement.
- In Australia energy efficiency was the key focus.
- The priorities will vary depending on the priorities of the organisation.
- Water is not commonly addressed.

2. GPP is centred on products rather than suppliers

- Yes – in all 6 countries reviewed.
- ‘Materially relevant’ – legal implications.
- Some supplier centred specifications being introduced by leading practitioners, with good, long term relationships with suppliers.

3. Key areas of procurement where green considerations are addressed

•Market Research

- 'Best practice guides', with national and standard criteria.
- Award criteria must be well defined in the invitation to suppliers.

•Live Contract - long term contracts can be reassessed and updated.

- Key suppliers - extended environmental performance can be explored.

4. Approaches to metrics and measurements

•To date metrics assess incorporation of green criteria into contracts in Europe.

•Measurement of the results of incorporating green criteria, GHG reduction, are not commonly undertaken.

•In the UK the DfT has initiated a paper tool to measure the environmental benefits achieved by green criteria across this department - a rare example.

•Wales (UK) has a toolkit for recording and tracking KPI within major contracts, which include sustainable procurement targets.

5. The interplay between training and tools

- Training procurers is key - move people away from the traditional 'least cost' option.
- Training is dependent on the - maturity of the policy or programme
 - maturity of understanding of the audience.
- Effective tool - embedded sustainability into Staff objectives.

6. Cross-pollination between procurement and sustainability people?

- Little evidence for this, although considered important.
- Product specific criteria developed to aid generalist procurers – cross over already achieved.
- Only specific example identified - within the NHS in the UK.



AEA

Louise Evans
Senior Consultant

AEA
The Gemini Building
Oxford
OX11 0QR

Tel: +44 (0)870 190 8226

E: Louise.Evans@uk.aeat.com

W: www.aeat.co.uk

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