

International Sustainable Acquisition Research Project

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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.

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