

# Sustainable Procurement Update

Edition 38, 2008



*The Sustainable Procurement Update is a trimonthly newsletter providing information on the ongoing activities of the Sustainable Procurement team at ICLEI's European Secretariat.*

## New Procura+ participants' area launched

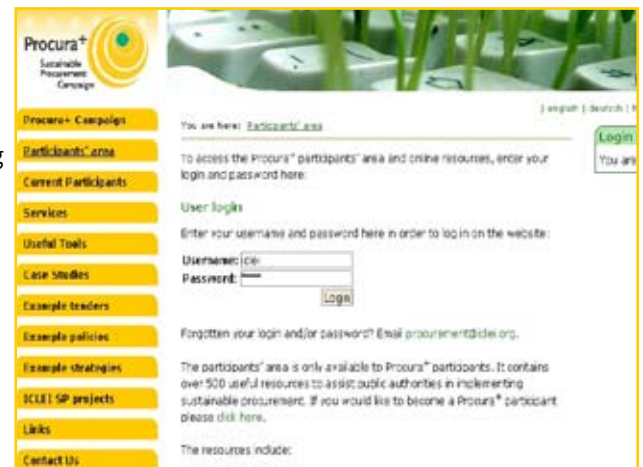
A new participants' area has been launched within the Procura+ Campaign website. The area is accessible to all current Procura+ participants and national partners, who are provided with a username and login for the site.

The participants' area includes a large number of resources aimed at helping participants to implement sustainable procurement within their authority. The following sections are available:

### Participants' area

- Participants area
- Example tenders
- Publications
- Photos, graphics and logos
- Experts directory
- Events calendar
- Presentations
- Projects
- Meeting minutes

- Examples of sustainable procurement tenders – A growing collection of actual tenders from across Europe which contain environmental and/or social criteria
  - A library of sustainable procurement publications – A number of publications related to public procurement covering various product/service groups, as well as other interesting topics
  - A collection of copyright-free photos, graphics and logos – A selection of graphical elements related to sustainable procurement which participants can use in publications, presentations, websites etc.
  - An experts directory – listing a number of experts who can be contacted for advice on specific product/service groups, and other sustainable procurement topics
- A calendar of events – listing upcoming conferences, seminars and workshops in the field of sustainable procurement
  - A library of sustainable procurement presentations – covering a range of topics that participants can use/adapt as required
  - Details of current and past national and European projects in the field of sustainable procurement
  - Procura+ participants' meeting minutes



### Inside this issue:

#### Project News:

- Promoting the European Ecolabel to public purchasers and their suppliers
- Technical support on GPP for IHOBE
- SP guidelines for office IT equipment for the UN system
- Responsibility in Procurement – further translations?
- ICLEI SP Services

#### Procura+ Campaign News:

- Craigavon new policy
- GPP in Catalunya

#### Upcoming Events:

- EcoProcura 2009 – Announcement Reykjavik
- Biofuel Cities 3rd Workshop on sustainable procurement of biofuels in Zaragoza, June 2008

#### Recent Events:

- Results of European Workshop on Fair Trade in Public Procurement in Lyon, 1-3 February 2008

#### Internal News:

- New intern

The resources presented in the participants' area have been collected over many years of working in the field, and will be continually expanded and updated. Participants are also encouraged to share their own resources with the Campaign.

To find out more about joining the Campaign to access the participants' area please visit the Campaign website at [www.procuraplus.org](http://www.procuraplus.org), or contact Mark Hidson, the Campaign Manager at [mark.hidson@iclei.org](mailto:mark.hidson@iclei.org).



## Project News

### Promoting the European Ecolabel to public purchasers and their suppliers

A new 12-month project has been launched by the European Commission to improve awareness of the European Ecolabel amongst European public procurers and the use of the Ecolabel criteria within tendering. The project, co-ordinated by ICLEI, will also look to improve awareness of GPP amongst regular public suppliers and the role the Ecolabel plays within this, in order to increase the number of products certified, and encourage the use of the criteria throughout the supply chain.



ICLEI is working together with BIO Intelligence Service (who currently run the European Ecolabel helpdesk) and the Regional Environment Center (REC). The project partners will be conducting a series of surveys to assess the most appropriate promotional activities and tools to achieve these goals. A number of specific promotional actions will also be carried out, including the holding of information stands and seminars at relevant procurement events (such as Procurement Solutions 2008, in London in June) and the development of guidance material.

*For more information about the project or the European Ecolabel in general, please contact [simon.clement@iclei.org](mailto:simon.clement@iclei.org).*

### Technical support on green public procurement for IHOBE

IHOBE is a publicly owned company that works in the field of environmental protection and management, and is a fundamental player in the remit of the Basque Government Department of Land Use and the Environment. IHOBE has launched a new one-year project with the aim of developing tools and assisting Basque public authorities in Spain in implementing green public procurement (GPP).

This service contract, co-ordinated by Ecoinstitut Barcelona, will consist of several tasks that include the development of GPP criteria for 7 product groups, the elaboration of a website on GPP, direct assistance to large and small-sized Basque public authorities, training on GPP to public servants and communication and recognition.

ICLEI has been subcontracted to develop monthly reports on GPP trends at the international level, and to disseminate the activities developed within the IHOBE GPP Programme at the European and International level.

*For more information about the project please contact the project co-ordinator Bettina Schaefer at [bettina.schaefer@ecoinstitut.es](mailto:bettina.schaefer@ecoinstitut.es).*

### Sustainable procurement guidelines for office IT equipment for the UN system



As announced in the last SP Update, ICLEI's SP team is working on sustainable procurement guidelines for desktop PCs, notebooks, monitors and imaging equipment for the UN. They will help UN procurers and requisitioners to select the most environmentally friendly and socially-responsibly produced products available on the market.

The core outcomes are comprehensive, region-specific sustainability criteria that can be used both for the pre-selection of equipment as well as for competitive tendering. Besides lifecycle costing considerations and environmental criteria this includes social criteria, e.g. referring to the ILO core conventions and making recommendations on how to verify compliance.

The work is part of the SUN (Sustainable UN) initiative that is aimed at achieving high environmental performance for the whole UN by the end of 2009.

*For further information please contact Philipp Tepper at [philipp.tepper@iclei.org](mailto:philipp.tepper@iclei.org).*



## Responsibility in Procurement – further translations?

As reported in the Winter SP Update, the two RESPIRO Guides on socially responsible procurement (SRP) were published at the end of last year. The 16-page Guide for textiles and clothing and the 20-page Guide for building construction works are each available in English, French and German.



The Guides can be downloaded from the project website – [www.respiro-project.eu](http://www.respiro-project.eu) – or as a hard copy (with CD-ROM) by contacting ICLEI and placing your order.

Given the widespread popularity of the Guides, ICLEI would very much like to translate into further languages and hold further seminars. If your organisation is interested in possible translation or seminar hosting please get in touch.

The Guides were produced as part of the one-year long European project called RESPIRO, funded by the European Commission's DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

We would very much like to hear from other organisations interested in translating the guide into other languages or getting involved in hosting seminars.

*For organisations interested in possible translation or seminar hosting, or for more information on the project, please contact Peter Defranceschi, email: [peter.defranceschi@iclei.org](mailto:peter.defranceschi@iclei.org).*

## ICLEI Sustainable Procurement Services



ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement team offers you tailor-made training and consultancy services. The training is stimulating and designed to effectively engage people and illustrate the practical implications of sustainable procurement.

For consultancy services you can rely on ICLEI's more than 10 years experience working with public authorities on making procurement more sustainable. The training and consultancy services are designed for public authorities of any size or level of experience.

*Book a training or consultancy session today! More information can be found in the ICLEI Sustainable Procurement Services leaflet available at <http://www.procuraplus.org/index.php?id=5070> or contact Mark Hidson directly at [mark.hidson@iclei.org](mailto:mark.hidson@iclei.org).*

## Procura+ Campaign News

### Craigavon Borough Council new policy

Craigavon Borough Council in Northern Ireland recently joined Procura+. At present Craigavon is in the process of reviewing and updating their Green Purchasing Policy, which first came into effect in 1999. The intention is to develop a set of criteria in order to demand the most environmentally friendly products in everyday use and in their tendering process.

Over the next year they intend to greatly increase the level of green procurement practised within the organisation through the development of this criteria and procurement software. The objective is to drive innovation within the Borough among suppliers and the public by becoming an exemplar of green procurement.

*To view Craigavon's Purchasing Policy please visit <http://www.procuraplus.org/index.php?id=6116>.*



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## Green Public Procurement in Catalunya

This section is dedicated to highlighting the work done by three active participants of the Procura+ Campaign in Catalunya:

**Barcelona City Council:** In 2002, the City of Barcelona (BCN) approved its Local Agenda 21, called Citizens' Commitment to Sustainability and is now promoting the +Sustainable City Council Programme in an attempt to spread the incorporation of good environmental and social practices throughout the organisation. Below are listed some of Barcelona's later activities:

- BCN has developed a new tender for cleaning and waste collection for the period 2009-2017, in an attempt to improve in quality and push sustainability policies. The contract includes environmental improvements such as more frequent cleaning, the introduction of more recycling containers, quieter rubbish collection, reduced air and noise pollution and reduced water use.
- Representatives from BCN visited its twinned city Santa Cruz de la Sierra in Bolivia in the last week of March, under the framework of the WWF initiative "Twin Cities for the forests". The initiative aims to foster sustainable forest management as well as responsible timber consumption.
- BCN has published a new tender on organic food for nursery schools. As a tender specification, it is demanded that at least 5% [of all purchased food] by weight must be organic food. Other environmental criteria such as selective waste collection and eco-friendly cleaning requirements and personnel training have also been included.
- BCN is also working on a new tender for the construction of a new building that will host the future premises of Barcelona municipal offices in 2011. They are negotiating the introduction of energy and water saving criteria and other innovative criteria such as central district cooling systems.
- Finally, BCN is looking into greening some sporting events. In 2008, an analysis of the environmental impacts and waste produced during these events will be carried out, and in the 2009 it is foreseen that more concrete actions to tackle these problems will be implemented.

For more information please visit: <http://www.bcn.cat/agenda21/ajuntamentsostenible> or contact [hbarraco@bcn.cat](mailto:hbarraco@bcn.cat).



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**Barcelona Provincial Council** is a local government institution with a network of 311 municipalities. Recently, DIBA has established a working group on Responsible Consumption and Sustainable Economy for the year 2008.



The working group is constituted by 25 municipalities and had its first meeting on 5 March 2008 to develop the new working plan. Future activities planned include the update of a catalogue on ecolabels and suppliers, work on the joint procurement of recycling paper among the group members, train and educate citizens on responsible consumption and promote fair trade products. These activities will be carried out over the next four years.

For more information please visit <http://www.diba.cat> or contact [garciamm@diba.cat](mailto:garciamm@diba.cat).



**Badalona City Council:** Badalona is a medium city in the metropolitan area of Barcelona. In 1999 green purchasing was introduced in the Environmental Department, and in 2002 was extended to the rest of the City Council.

Badalona is currently working on the organisation of internal training on GPP for those personnel from the purchasing department as well as those writing the tenders. At the same time, Badalona has developed a tender for vending machines and a tender for the purchase of 60,000 "foulards" (a type of shawl/scarf used for traditional festivities) including fair trade criteria.

For more information please visit [www.aj-badalona.es](http://www.aj-badalona.es).



## Upcoming Events

### EcoProcura 2009 – Announcement Reykjavik

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and Reykjavik City Council are pleased to announce the EcoProcura 2009 conference, to be held on 25-27 March. The aim of this conference is to exchange ideas, experiences, concepts and opinions on how sustainable procurement can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change. This unique meeting place provides a platform to promote exchange amongst purchasers from all levels of governments, policy-makers, product designers, suppliers, manufacturers and multipliers. More details will be provided in future Updates.

For more information contact: [philipp.tepper@iclei.org](mailto:philipp.tepper@iclei.org)

### Biofuel Cities 3rd Workshop on sustainable procurement of biofuels in Zaragoza, June 2008

ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement team together with the Climate & Air team will be organising a 1-day workshop on Sustainable Biofuel Procurement for Transport at ICLEI's European Membership Convention taking place in Zaragoza, Spain, on 24 June 2008. The workshop is part of the Biofuel Cities project that aims to demonstrate the broadscale use of new and innovative biofuel technologies. It covers the complete chain - from feedstock to biofuels production, distribution and utilisation in vehicle fleets.

This workshop (the third in a series held on different biofuel topics) will focus on the procurement cycle of biofuels in transport. Expected participants will be primarily public authorities, but also representatives of different types of biofuel end-users, such as local government fleet owners (buses, waste trucks, etc.), industrial and commercial fleet owners (logistics, vehicle rental or removal companies, etc.), as well as agricultural biofuel end-users (tractor fleets, etc.). The group of approximately 15-20 experts will base their discussions on a draft guidance paper, which is currently being developed by biofuels procurement experts. The main objective of this guidance is to provide public authorities interested in tendering for biofuels with a clear overview of the potential of biofuels, the issues at stake, the current status of research and technical development and how to include sustainability considerations into public tendering. Discussions will address:

- Preconditions for purchasing biofuels (infrastructure)
- Sustainability of biofuels (food & biodiversity vs. biofuels)
- Appropriate types of biofuels
- Benefits/solutions for public authorities
- Availability & affordability of biofuel transport

The outcomes of the discussions will be included in the draft guidance that will later be printed and disseminated to public authorities across Europe. For more information please contact Peter Defranceschi, email: [peter.defranceschi@iclei.org](mailto:peter.defranceschi@iclei.org)

## Recent Events

### Results of European Workshop on Fair Trade in Public Procurement in Lyon, 1- 3 February 2008

The workshop was held within the First European Fair Trade Fair organised by Equi'Sol. The fair hosted 170 exhibitors of organic and Fair Trade products, 6,000 visitors and 25 roundtables. More than 30% of the participants were from outside France. ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement team organised a one-day workshop on Fair Trade in public procurement. The main objective was to show participants that Fair Trade in public procurement (FTPP) was possible.

The workshop was split into 3 sessions and provided good practice examples, an overview of successful initiatives (Fair Trade Towns, Fair Canteen Services) and methods for including Fair Trade in public tendering. The audience showed considerable interest in the topic and posed many tender-specific questions. The overview of the European Commission's current stand on Fair Trade in procurement, given by a representative from DG Trade, was well appreciated. Particular attention was also paid to the presentation of Stichting Max Havelaar, who presented the results of a court case from November 2007, where a national court gave a positive verdict on Fair Trade in public procurement in the first test case of its kind. Though the court case was not taken to the European Court of Justice it represents nevertheless an important precedent for the Fair Trade movement. In the third session aimed at discussing proposals for keeping the current momentum going, some public authorities expressed their interest in tendering for Fair Trade products and in hosting seminars on Fair Trade in public procurement.

For information and registration please visit the EFTF website at [www.european-fairtrade-fair.org](http://www.european-fairtrade-fair.org).  
For more information on the workshop please contact Peter Defranceschi, email: [peter.defranceschi@iclei.org](mailto:peter.defranceschi@iclei.org)



### New intern – Nina Osswald

Nina Osswald joined ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement Team as a Project Assistant in February this year. She studied Geography and English Literature at the University of Freiburg, Germany, and graduated with an M.A. degree in 2007. In her studies she focused on issues of globalisation, international development, sustainability and ethical trade. Nina will be working mainly on the European Ecolabel Promotion project and the Biofuel Cities project.

*Nina can be contacted through [procurement@iclei.org](mailto:procurement@iclei.org)*



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