

Sustainable Public Procurement How to “Wake the Sleeping Giant”

Introducing the United Nations Environment Programme's Approach



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Key concepts and terms

Circular economy

Looking beyond the current take-make-waste extractive industrial model, a circular economy aims to redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits. It entails gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources, and designing waste out of the system. Underpinned by a transition to renewable energy sources, the circular model builds economic, natural, and social capital. It is based on three principles:

- Design out waste and pollution
- Keep products and materials in use
- Regenerate natural systems

Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation. Concept: What is a circular economy? Available at: www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy/concept [Accessed 28 June 2021].

Circular procurement

Circular procurement occurs when the buyer purchases products or services that follow the principles of the circular economy, supporting the assessment of designing, making, selling, re-using and recycling products to determine how to get the maximum value from them, both in use and at the end of their life.

Source: UNEP (2018) Building circularity into our economies through sustainable procurement. www.wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/26599/circularity_procurement.pdf?isAllowed=y&sequence=1

Consultative group

A group of individuals that represent different stakeholders that are consulted for input throughout the programme.

Core Conventions of the International Labour Organisation

Core Conventions of the International Labour Organisation:

C-29 Forced Labour Convention, 1930
C-87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1949
C-98 Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949
C-100 Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951
C-105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957
C-111 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958
C-138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973
C-182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999

Source: ILO. *Conventions and Recommendations*. Available at: www.ilo.org/global/standards/introduction-to-international-labour-standards/conventions-and-recommendations/lang-en/Index.htm [Accessed 19 May 2021].

Ecolabels/ consumer information tools

Consumer information covers a range of tools and systems that seek to guide consumers to make more sustainable choices about goods and services (products) including in their use and end of life phase. Tools can take many forms (including ecolabels) and can be single- or multi-issue.

Source: UNEP (2019) Consumer Information Tools and Climate Change: Facilitating low-carbon choices in Tourism, Buildings and Food Systems. www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/consumer_information_tools_and_climate_change.pdf

**Government
Procurement
Agreement
(GPA) - WTO**

The Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) is to date the only legally binding agreement in the WTO focusing on the subject of government procurement. It is a plurilateral treaty administered by a Committee on Government Procurement, which includes the WTO Members that are Parties to the GPA, and thus have rights and obligations under the Agreement.

Source: World Trade Organization. Agreement on Government Procurement. Available at: www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/gproc_e/gp_gpa_e.htm [Accessed 19 May 2021].

Green economy

A green economy is defined as low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. In a green economy, growth in employment and income are driven by public and private investment into such economic activities, infrastructure and assets that allow reduced carbon emissions and pollution, enhanced energy and resource efficiency, and prevention of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Source: UNEP. Green economy. Available at: www.unep.org/regions/asia-and-pacific/regional-initiatives/supporting-resource-efficiency/green-economy [Accessed 4 June 2021].

**Green Public
Procurement
(GPP)**

A process whereby public authorities seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle when compared to goods, services and works with the same primary function that would otherwise be procured.

Source: European Commission. What is GPP. Available at: www.ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/what_en.htm [Accessed 19 May 2021].

**Life cycle
approach**

A life cycle approach reflects the incorporation of sustainability concerns from the complete life cycle of a product – all the way from extracting raw materials, manufacturing parts, assembling the product, use and disposal after end of life.

Source: Life Cycle Initiative. Life Cycle Approaches. Available at: www.lifecycleinitiative.org/starting-life-cycle-thinking/life-cycle-approaches/ [Accessed 19 May 2021].

**Life Cycle
Costing (LCC)**

An economic assessment considering all agreed projected significant and relevant cost flows over a period of analysis expressed in monetary value. The projected costs are those needed to achieve defined levels of performance, including reliability, safety and availability.

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