

Buy green and make a difference

How to address environmental issues in public procurement



Buy green and make a difference

2

How to address environmental issues in public procurement

Foreword by Angela Eagle, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury

These days we are increasingly aware of our impact on the environment. The scientific evidence is clearer and stronger than ever before - our actions are changing our climate. I believe we are all beginning to recognise that our choices do matter and that we are the generation that really has to make a difference.

To bring about change it's going to take commitment and action from every one of us – as individuals, as businesses and as public servants. The Government has a responsibility to lead this action and not least through the goods and services it buys.

This useful guide lays out clearly, with examples, what actions you can take as a procurer in Government. A lot of the suggestions in this leaflet aren't add-ons to the procurement process, but are a core part of best practice and you should be doing at least some of them already. By taking note of what's here you will be helping the taxpayer by delivering long-term value for money, whilst considering the impact our decisions have on the environment.

Introduction

The Government is committed to protecting the environment – especially working to limit the effects of climate change. We should all be taking action to improve quality of life now in a way that safeguards the environment for future generations.

This document has been produced to help procurers and decision makers in the public sector to safeguard the environment through the money they spend. Every spending decision you make will have consequences for the environment – so it is important that you consider the issues carefully. This guide shows you how, with examples. It is intended as an introduction to the subject for anyone involved in public sector procurement, from internal clients to suppliers to procurers themselves. Links to more detailed guidance are included throughout.

Government expects all public sector purchasers to use their procurement spend to support sustainable development¹, including environmental aims. In fact, Government has set itself a target to be among the European Union leaders in sustainable public procurement by 2009. We have published national Sustainable Procurement Action Plans for the central government, local government and health sectors. These documents set out how public sector spending can best support sustainable development objectives and describe how the public sector is going to achieve the goals it has set itself. We have also put in place a set of mandatory Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets for central Government to meet.

Rules have been developed for public sector procurement to ensure fairness and value for taxpayers' money². These don't stop you from buying in a way that helps the environment – but you must be aware of what the rules are. This guide gives you a quick overview and lists more detailed guidance.

OGC has published a similar guide to considering social issues: 'Buy and Make a Difference: How to Address Social Issues in Public Procurement' see: http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Social_Issues_in_Public_Procurement.pdf. It is useful to read these two documents together and consider the whole range of environmental and social issues when planning a procurement exercise.



¹The first UK Sustainable Development Strategy, 'A Better Quality of Life' (1999), defined sustainable development as 'a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come' and cited the commonly used definition 'development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.' (From 'Our Common Future (The Brundtland Report)' – Report of the 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development.) Sustainable development covers environmental issues, but also important social and economic issues such as helping the long-term unemployed into work and respecting diversity.

²All public procurement procedures must comply with the EU Treaty. In essence, this means that all procurement exercises must be open, fair and competitive – in particular, there must be no discrimination against suppliers on the basis of their nationality. In addition, the detailed rules set out in the EU procurement directives (and the Regulations that implement them in the UK) apply to procurements above certain monetary thresholds. The UK also has a value for money policy, which means that public bodies must get the best deal possible based on whole-life costs and quality (or fitness for purpose) to meet their requirements – not just look at lowest purchase price.

Key points to consider

The key points to have in mind in your approach to environmental issues in procurement are:

- There are mandatory sustainable operations and procurement targets and commitments for all departments and agencies. You should focus on these first. See: http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Environmental_Sustainability.pdf
- Think about environmental issues on a case by case basis – what are the biggest issues related to this particular contract? They might be around carbon emissions, or energy use or reducing waste, for example.
- Different contracts will require you to consider different issues. For example, there are many environmental and social issues associated with the production and supply of food. Animal welfare, sustainable fishing, seasonal food and nutritional balance are all important. Guidance on a range of environmental and social issues relating to food procurement is available in the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative publication ‘Putting it into practice!’ See: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/psfpi-putting-into-practice.pdf>
In addition, OGC has produced guidance on public procurement and fair trade. See http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Guidance_on_Fair_and_Ethical_Trading.pdf
- Remember you must get value for the money you spend over the whole life of the contract. See: [http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/VFM\(1\).pdf](http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/VFM(1).pdf);
- You must also make sure your procurements are consistent with the EU Treaty and the EU Public Procurement Directives (see: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2004/L_134/L_13420040430en01140240.pdf), which are implemented into UK law through the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (see: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/uksi_20060005_en.pdf). Procurement exercises above certain thresholds must comply with the rules laid out in the Directives and Regulations. Treaty principles generally apply to all procurement activity;
- You should be clear about what environmental benefits you’re getting and whether these justify any additional costs;
- You should also recognise the ambition of both the European Union and the Government to move towards more sustainable consumption and production, including public purchasing. See: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/escp_en.htm For example, carbon budgets and low carbon regulations will soon be put in place in the UK, through the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC). All central Government departments will participate in the CRC. See: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/carbonreduction/index.htm>
- You should also consider whether your actions could be increasing burdens on suppliers and putting them off bidding for the work. You could potentially be missing out on great ideas – particularly from Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) that aren’t equipped to deal with overly complex bidding requirements. See: [http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/SMEs\(1\).pdf](http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/SMEs(1).pdf)
- OGC’s collaborative procurement team is working on finding the best deals on common goods and services. These deals are open to the whole public sector and many offer solutions providing both value for money and environmental sustainability gains. See: http://www.ogc.gov.uk/efficiency_commodities_procurement.asp

Sustainable procurement is most effective when it is integrated into an organisation's general business. Do what you can to make sure that environmental issues (and other sustainability issues) are covered in your organisation's commercial strategy and that as many people as possible know about it and support what you are trying to do. It's particularly important to involve decision makers in the estates and IT teams.

Sustainable procurement is a complex subject. The Sustainable Procurement Task Force produced a useful prioritisation methodology to help clarify where your actions could do the most good. It also developed a tool called the 'Flexible Framework', which organisations may find useful in assessing the maturity of their sustainable procurement and planning next steps. See: <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/government/task-forces/procurement/index.htm>

A key thing to remember is that true sustainable procurement is not just about procuring the most sustainable products, but managing demand for goods and services and the associated resources.

Example:

A department creates a new travel policy. All staff are required to consider the policy when deciding how to travel to a particular meeting/event.

The policy requires members of staff to communicate where possible by telephone, email or videoconference. Where this is not possible, the most environmentally friendly forms of transport should be used (i.e. walking/cycling, then public transport, then travelling by car and only in the most exceptional circumstances air travel.)

The policy should be adhered to when organising departmental events and when individuals are purchasing travel in order to allow them to attend meetings or events organised by other bodies.

The department also invests in videoconference equipment, cycle sheds and showers on site to help staff abide by the travel policy.

Incorporating environmental issues into public procurement

The scope to address environmental issues varies depending on the stage of the procurement process:

- Pre-procurement – identifying the need;
- When deciding the requirement – specification;
- When selecting suppliers to invite to tender – selection;
- When awarding the contract – award;
- In the performance of the contract – contract conditions and relationship management.

Buy green and make a difference

How to address environmental issues in public procurement

Identifying the need

This is the stage at which there is most scope for taking environmental considerations into account. A key step will be to consider the need to procure. It may be that through effective demand management the need to procure a particular product can be avoided.

Equally, the need can be defined in such a way as to minimise the resources consumed or the user demand once it has been obtained. For example, it is possible to specify new IT and electrical equipment that saves energy through not having a 'standby' setting or to specify printers which require users to enter a PIN in order to pick up their printing (so avoiding wastage of paper through forgotten and unused print outs.)

Examples:

A department runs an internal energy savings campaign, encouraging staff to switch off equipment that is not in use. Security guards take responsibility for switching off appropriate energy-using equipment during their rounds at the end of the working day. This reduces the department's demand for electricity, so saving money and reducing carbon emissions.

Another department decides not to buy new printers. Instead, it removes printers at the end of their natural life and redistributes the remaining printers throughout its buildings. Most members of staff now have to walk further to collect printed papers and so think twice before printing out documents. The department's demand for paper (and, to a lesser extent, for electricity) is reduced. Again, this saves money and reduces negative environmental impacts.

Having demonstrated a procurement requirement, if the product or service required is defined at this stage as including environmental characteristics, then this must be reflected throughout the process – in the specification, at the selection and award stages and when defining contract conditions.

At this stage, contracting authorities should consider which environmental aims could be best met through the procurement. In particular, think about how you can define what you are buying in order to make the most beneficial environmental impact – or to minimise negative environmental impacts. Environmental benefits can often be achieved by rethinking at this stage – for example, can the need be met in a more resource efficient way, by reusing or recycling instead of buying new products, or investing in video-conferencing facilities, rather than new vehicles?

Example:

A department considers its road transport requirements, in the light of the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets and the government fleet emissions target. In order to achieve these targets, it decides its need is for low-emission vehicles. In making this choice, it should write a business case that examines whether this is the best value for money option (in terms of costs and benefits to the whole public sector.) It must then test this requirement for need, affordability and cost-effectiveness in the context of the department's overall objectives. It then sets the specification accordingly and awards the contract to the bidder offering the best value for money (in terms of whole life costs and quality) bid to meet the requirement.

When developing the business case for what you're buying, you should take account of benefits to the whole of society, including social and environmental benefits. All costs and benefits should be considered over the whole life of the contract – at purchase, in use and at disposal. For products, you should also think about impacts during the production stage. You can find more guidance on this in the Treasury Green Book and in 'Managing Public Money'. See: <http://greenbook.treasury.gov.uk/>, http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/greenbook/data_greenbook_money_sustainability.cfm and http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_spending_reporting/governance_risk/psr_managingpublicmoney_index.cfm

In particular, Defra guidance on the 'shadow price of carbon' should be used at this stage in order to include the cost of carbon emissions over the life of the contract in any cost benefit analysis. See: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/research/carboncost/index.htm>

Specification

Environmental considerations should be included in the specification where they are relevant to the subject matter of the contract. This means that they should relate to the characteristics of the product or service, for example what it consists of (e.g. cleaning services with a low environmental impact or recycled paper) or how it performs its function (e.g. energy efficient light bulbs.) Requirements that relate to the wider operation of the supplier will generally not be relevant. For example, it would not be relevant to require that a supplier of stationery used recycled paper in its own offices. When buying services, consideration should be given to how they should be carried out – requirements that are necessary for the successful delivery of the service should be contained in the specification (e.g. for the cleaning service mentioned above, requirements might include use of products meeting certain environmental standards) whereas requirements that are still relevant but are less critical should be contained in contract conditions (e.g. for the cleaning service, this might include training the cleaners to dilute and use cleaning products correctly to reduce waste.)

If you're buying for a central government department, you should check the Defra 'Buy Sustainable - Quick Wins' list of minimum environmental standards for particular types of products. See: <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/what/priority/consumption-production/quickWins/index.htm> Central government bodies are required to buy products that at least meet the standards set out in this list, and to buy even more environmentally-friendly products where possible. The list is also a useful tool for other buyers. There are separate standards for timber products and fleet vehicles. See: <http://www.proforest.net/cpet/uk-government-timber-procurement-policy/timber-guidance> and <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/scienceresearch/technology/transportewp>



Example:

A department has a requirement for white goods for its catering units. One of the core requirements laid out in the specification for the goods is that their energy efficiency during use at least meets the minimum environmental standards laid out in the 'Quick Wins' list. This should reduce running costs to the department during the lifetime of the goods and also assist it in meeting certain SOGE targets. The department could also consider specifying white goods that go further than the minimum requirement and make even greater energy and water savings, by using the relevant best practice standard identified in the 'Quick Wins' list.

Core requirements are essential parts of a contract, reflected in both the specification and the conditions of the contract. An environmental issue can be a core requirement if it is central to the subject of the procurement and consistent with the public procurement Regulations. Examples of environmental core requirements include: material that the products are made from (e.g. cardboard rather than plastic); their characteristics in use (e.g. their energy efficiency); and their suitability for responsible disposal (e.g. parts marked for ease of recycling.)

You can also specify environmentally friendly production processes, provided they help to characterise the product you're buying. They need not be visible in the end product. They should concern aspects of the production process such as, for instance, limiting emissions to air and water during the production process. Other examples include:

- organically-produced food
- timber from sustainably-managed forests
- electricity from renewable sources
- products made in an energy and/or water efficient way.

However, the specification must not include requirements on the general behaviour of the supplier where these measures are not related to the subject of the contract. For example, unacceptable requirements relating to a supplier of cars might include requiring that the supplier:

- uses recycled office paper
- buys energy from renewable sources
- has an established environmental management scheme for all its operations
- serves organic food in its canteen.

Guidance on specifying production processes is available in the European Commission 'Green Public Procurement Toolkit' and the publication 'Buying Green!' See:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/toolkit/module2_legal_framework_for_gpp.ppt and

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/buying_green_handbook_en.pdf

Example:

A department researches the costs and benefits of organic food. It identifies a list of food groups where organic alternatives can be bought without significantly increasing costs and decides it will buy these in future. Its specification includes the requirement that these types of food must have been produced by organic methods.

It is often useful to specify in terms of the environmental outputs or outcomes you want, in order to give tenderers the flexibility to offer different ways of meeting these requirements. This opens up the possibility for suppliers to offer innovative solutions that can meet your needs in different ways, potentially delivering improvements in quality and better long-term value for money. It can also stimulate innovation within the economy by enabling the market to respond to current and future public service needs. In expressing your need you should give enough information to help the market but not restrict creativity. See the OGC and DIUS publication 'Finding and Procuring Innovative Solutions' for more information:

[http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Finding_and_Procuring_Innovative_Solutions_\(3\).pdf](http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Finding_and_Procuring_Innovative_Solutions_(3).pdf)

Example:

HM Prison Service was seeking a more environmentally sustainable way of supplying, using and disposing of prison mattresses. In particular, they sought more durable mattresses that could be disposed of without the need for landfill. The aspiration was a zero waste solution. This need could not be met by the solutions already on the market, so HMPS decided to issue a call for solutions as part of its preparation for procurement. It asked for suggestions on design, supply, use and disposal (or any combination of these) to meet the requirement. This market sounding informed the specification.

Procurers can also offer the option to submit 'variant' bids, which (in addition to meeting the basic requirement) provide even greater environmental benefits.



All environmental requirements reflected in the specification should be transparent and non-discriminatory. This means that it should be clear to all potential bidders what is being asked for and the requirements should not be framed in such a way as to unfairly exclude potential bidders – for example, it would be discriminatory to specify ‘British grown’ carrots.

Selection

This is the point at which suppliers are selected to participate in the next stage of the procurement process.

This stage should be used to make sure that the tenderers who are selected to participate have the necessary capability and knowledge to carry out the contract (based on the requirements laid out in the specification.) As part of this, you should ask for relevant evidence of technical capability to deliver the environmental elements of the contract. The public procurement Regulations contain an extensive list of references or evidence that potential suppliers can be required to provide to prove their technical and/or professional ability.³ If a contract requires specific environmental know how, you could also ask for proof of suitable experience.

You must make sure that the evidence you ask for relates to the specific contract itself – not to the operation of the whole business.

Example:

A department is procuring the construction of a new office building. It has built environmental considerations into the building’s design and is concerned that its construction should also be carried out in an environmentally responsible manner. It builds various requirements into the specification to ensure this happens.

At selection stage, it is looking for the companies most capable of carrying out the contract (including its environmental aspects.) It asks the companies for proof of this. It does not ask the companies to prove that they have an environmental management system (EMS) covering their operations – as that goes beyond what is required for the performance of the contract itself. However, it does ask for proof that the companies can carry out the environmental requirements – and says that it will accept an EMS as one form of proof. Other forms of proof could include experience of carrying out similar requirements on previous contracts.

The department also includes a contract condition requiring the successful bidder to set up an accredited EMS to cover the project within six months of its inception.

See ‘Contract conditions’, below, for more information on requiring contractors to set up an EMS.

Candidates can be excluded from competition at selection stage if they have been convicted of an offence concerning professional conduct or grave professional misconduct, for example a breach of environmental law.

³ Regulation 25 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006.

Example:

A waste disposal company that has repeatedly breached environmental laws, resulting in several fines, can be excluded on grounds of grave professional misconduct.

Award

The UK's policy is that all public contracts must be awarded on the basis of value for money on a whole life basis, not lowest upfront price. Many more environmentally sustainable solutions (such as energy efficient equipment or more durable products that don't require annual replacements) will have lower whole life costs than the standard alternatives, even if their upfront purchase price may be higher. This means that awarding contracts on a whole life cost basis will often help you obtain the most environmentally sustainable solution.

Example:

The procurement for the OGCbuying.solutions / NHS PASA framework agreement for multi-functional devices clearly showed the benefits of calculating whole life cost as part of award decisions. The evaluation showed that the cheapest models offered generally had far higher whole life costs than the more expensive options. Purchase price can be a poor guide to actual cost.

The framework makes available energy and paper efficient multi-functional devices, which replace conventional printers, scanners, faxes and photocopiers. The framework was designed with sustainability in mind and includes a requirement that suppliers continually improve their environmental performance, and the environmental attributes of their product ranges, for the duration of the contract.

When we in the UK refer to 'value for money' at award stage, we are talking about the phrase 'Most Economically Advantageous Tender' as described in the UK Regulations implementing the EU Procurement Directives. This has to be evaluated from the point of view of the contracting authority – so at this stage you can't consider wider benefits to society. However, this relates to value for money to meet the requirement – so, as long as appropriate environmental issues have been built in at specification stage, the winning bid will provide the environmental benefits you need.

The Regulations list a number of criteria, by way of example, that contracting authorities can use to identify which tender would be the most economically advantageous. These award criteria include quality, price, technical merit, aesthetic and functional characteristics, environmental characteristics, running costs, cost effectiveness, after sales service, technical assistance, delivery date and delivery period.

All award criteria must be relevant to the subject of the contract, give a benefit to the contracting authority and be consistent with EU Treaty principles such as non-discrimination.

Contract conditions

Contract conditions should be used to ensure that the contract is carried out in line with your needs. This should include environmental issues, where relevant to the performance of the contract. An important part of contract management is monitoring that the contract is being carried out as agreed. Contract conditions should be used to ensure that suppliers provide appropriate information on their performance of all aspects of the contract, including the environmental requirements.

Contracting authorities should also ensure that the conditions:

- Are not disguised technical specifications, selection or award criteria (that is, they can be complied with by whoever wins the contract);
- Are advertised in advance to candidates in the contract notice or tender documentation;
- Are compatible with Treaty principles – and in particular do not discriminate against tenderers from other countries.

Example:

For a major works contract, a contract condition could be imposed requiring the winning bidder to use a dedicated rail or canal facility to deliver the building materials required. This would reduce the carbon dioxide emissions associated with transporting materials to site. However, care must be taken to ensure that all bidders would have access to this transport facility – if they did not, then the imposition of such a condition would be discriminatory.

Example:

A contracting authority puts in place a new facilities management (FM) services contract. It includes contract conditions on environmental sustainability, in line with its commitments under the SOGE targets. The conditions include requirements to:

- implement an environmental management system for the services in the contract;
- train FM staff in energy conservation and support the contracting authority in energy conservation awareness campaigns within the building;
- maintain grounds sensitively, respecting biodiversity;
- work to reduce waste generation onsite and increase recycling rates.

Example:

A department lets a contract for office supplies. One of the contract conditions requires the successful bidder to meet current Government 'Quick Win' standards on the sustainability of the products provided and to draw up an action plan showing how the supplier will meet any new Government standards imposed during the lifetime of the contract.

Example:

A department lets a contract for a construction project. It uses contract conditions to require the successful bidder to comply with the OGC 'Common Minimum Standards for the built environment', which bring together all relevant standards for Government construction. In particular, it stresses that the project should be designed to maximise the efficiency of energy, water and waste management. It also requires the contractor to construct a building that will achieve the SOGE targets, to ensure a BREEAM assessment is carried out on the building, to comply with the Government timber procurement policy when buying timber for the building and to only use products meeting the 'Buy – Sustainable Quick Wins' minimum environmental standards.

As mentioned above, under 'Selection', contracting authorities can use contract conditions to require the winning bidder to set up an accredited Environmental Management System (EMS) to cover the performance of the subject matter of the contract, **but only where they are buying works or services** and only where the EMS is relevant to the performance of the contract.

Example:

A department is letting a contract for facilities management of all its buildings. The specification for the work lays out the requirement that the service provider works with the department to achieve the sustainability commitments and targets that relate to the buildings (largely based on the SOGE targets.) Contract conditions are used to require the service provider to monitor and report on progress against each target, providing detailed data to the department. The department requires the supplier to do this through the establishment of an EMS covering all the buildings.

Contracting authorities often wish to build in contract conditions that may bring environmental benefits to wider society. If you want to do this, you must consider how you can tell whether you are getting good value for money from these extra requirements. Suppliers will pass on any extra costs to you, so you must be clear that this is the most cost effective way of getting the benefits you want. It's also possible that complying with extra conditions could distract the successful bidder from the main business of the contract.

You should also consider whether adding extra contract conditions would put off smaller suppliers from bidding for the work. Fewer bids means reduced competition and could threaten the achievement of value for money.

Contract conditions requiring changes to the organisation, structure or policy of a supplier established in another Member State might be considered discriminatory or a barrier to free trade.

Buy green and make a difference

14

How to address environmental issues in public procurement

Relationship management

You can achieve a lot by working with your existing suppliers outside the formal procurement process. Once a supplier has been awarded a contract, there are often opportunities to work co-operatively with them and their supply chain to raise awareness and promote environmental objectives.

Example:

A department agreed with its suppliers to work together to agree methods to coordinate deliveries to minimise emissions from transport. This included agreements that the contracting authority will coordinate its stationery orders into less frequent, larger quantities and that the supplier will investigate options for delivering cleaning products in concentrated form, allowing more to be delivered at once.

Example:

NHS PASA undertook a packaging reduction initiative in the computer software supply chain. It worked on a voluntary basis with the largest software reseller of Microsoft products to the NHS, investigating what could be done to reduce product packaging.

CDs are no longer shipped in plastic CD cases, but are instead wrapped in paper and sent in envelopes, resulting in an 80% reduction in packaging weight. The supplier saves money on postage charges and packaging costs and less waste is sent to landfill.



Further reading

For high level information on mandatory targets and commitments, as well as links to detailed guidance on environmental purchasing, see the 'Environmental Issues in Purchasing' policy statement: http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Environmental_Sustainability.pdf

OGC and Defra have published more detailed guidance in the 'Joint Note on Environmental Issues in Purchasing': http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Environmental_Issues_In_Purchasing.pdf

You can read more about the Government's commitments to sustainable development in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, 'Securing the Future': <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/uk-strategy/index.htm>

In addition, Government has set out how public sector spend can best support sustainable development in three national action plans: the UK Sustainable Procurement Action Plan for central Government; and the Sustainable Procurement Action Plans for the local government and health and social care sectors. See: <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/pdf/SustainableProcurementActionPlan.pdf>, <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/7643299> and <http://www.pasa.nhs.uk/PASAWeb/NHSprocurement/Sustainabledevelopment/Procurement.htm>

The Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets are listed at <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/government/estates/index.htm>

The European Commission has also published guidance on 'green' purchasing:

- 'Green Public Procurement Toolkit' http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit_en.htm
- 'Buying Green!' http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/buying_green_handbook_en.pdf
- 'Commission interpretative communication on the Community law applicable to public procurement and the possibilities for integrating environmental considerations into public procurement' http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2001/com2001_0274en01.pdf

Further Enquiries

Questions on this pamphlet should be addressed in the first instance to the OGC Service Desk on 0845 000 4999 or at servicedesk@ogc.gsi.gov.uk



About OGC

OGC - the UK Office of Government Commerce - is an Office of HM Treasury.

The OGC logo is a registered trademark of the Office of Government Commerce in the United Kingdom.

OGC Service Desk

OGC customers can contact the central OGC Service Desk about all aspects of OGC business.

The Service Desk will also channel queries to the appropriate second-line support. We look forward to hearing from you.

You can contact the Service Desk 8am - 6pm Monday to Friday

T: 0845 000 4999

E: ServiceDesk@ogc.gsi.gov.uk

W: www.ogc.gov.uk

Press enquiries

T: 020 7271 1318

F: 020 7271 1345

This document is printed on material comprising 75 per cent recycled fibre.

© Crown Copyright 2008



Office of Government Commerce