



Norwegian National Program on Green Public Procurement

a program undertaken by GRIP

and financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Environment

*GRIP is a part of the solution! Our vision is to make
sustainable development profitable and inspiring*

GRIP - Norwegian centre for sustainable production and consumption

Prologue

In 1992 the word went out from the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro: "Take environmental considerations in public procurement..." This message was repeated and reinforced at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002. Today governments all over the world are addressing the topic - and working to make it happen. In Norway green public procurement has become national policy and it is part of national legislation.

What is GRIP?

GRIP is an independent foundation established by the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment in the mid 1990s.

The idea behind GRIP was to test out the thesis that the market forces could be mobilized in favour of the environment - and it works. Through many projects over the years GRIP has shown that good environmental performance, value added, reduced costs and improved profile do not exclude each other.

GRIP's objective is to promote sustainable production and consumption in Norwegian private and public organisations.

Public procurement

Public procurement is at present GRIP's main focus area. In a market economy, the participants are sensitive to the way money is spent. When customers channel their money towards green goods and services, it will lead to an increase in R&D-activities, marketing and production of green goods and services.

Resources saved are money saved - and it is GRIP's conviction that in most cases environment and economy go hand in hand. One of the winners of the "Glass bear" (Norwegian National Environmental Award), the Municipality of Oslo, is an example on this. Oslo won the award for buying cars with low CO₂-emissions; cars that also turned out having a good economic profile.

The aim of the GPP-program

The aim of Norwegian Green Public Procurement Program is to encourage and enable public procurement officers to take environmental considerations, save money and improve their organisation's profile.

This is possible through focusing on the following aspects of procurement:

- The legal framework
- The organisation's procurement policy
- The managerial level and the organisation's environmental management system
- The needs identification process
- The technical specifications and award criteria

In the field of public procurement the purpose of GRIP's activities is to:

- Positively stimulate public bodies to work for a sustainable development
- Make it simple to take environmental considerations in procurement processes
- Make public bodies familiar with how environmental criteria can be used within the procurement law
- Make available environmental information and environmental product criteria
- Supply procurement officers with the necessary tools and methods to undertake green purchasing
- Stimulate suppliers to deliver the green goods and services public bodies are demanding

- The evaluation phase

Who is backing us?

The Norwegian GPP-program has been commissioned by the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment. The program has been developed in close dialogue with the Ministry, and the Ministry is also the major source of financing. The Norwegian National Act on Public Procurement states that environmental considerations shall be taken. In principle the GPP-program is there to help procurement officers to fulfil this obligation. The duration of the program is 2005 until 2009.

The way we work

Tools, methods, examples and guidelines are available in electronic format and in print on www.grip.no. Conferences, seminars and courses are offered on a variety of subjects and a newsletter service is available. However, our core activity is to give advice on how environmental criteria can be formulated in tender documents, especially within the legal framework of public procurement.

With GRIP's general knowledge and access to information sources, advice can be given for most product groups. Special emphasis is given to the following areas/product groups:

- Cars and mobility
- Buildings and tenancy agreements
- Textiles
- Paper and printing services
- PCs and information technology
- Net-based conferencing and collaboration

For these areas GRIP has special programmes and activities and dedicated people that work on their development and promotion. On www.grip.no more information is offered and contact names are given.

The Norwegian GPP program is aiming to achieve:

- Criteria development and environmentally adapted tender documents
- Increased availability of counselling, courses and seminars for competence building
- Environmental competence in the suppliers marketing and sale activities
- Eco design high on the agenda during design and development of products
- Environmental management systems implemented in a large number of organisations
- Greater availability of environmental information

GRIP is especially focusing on the following product groups:

Cars and mobility: Environmentally friendly cars pollute less and have a lower life cycle cost. We help you buy such cars, but there is even more to save by implementing a travel policy that promotes a mix of telecommuting, videoconferencing, carsharing, public transport or even bicycling. Did you know that if all cars in Norway consumed as much fuel as state of the art hybrid vehicles, we would reduce the CO₂-emissions from road traffic with more than 40 %?

Building and tenancy agreement: Buildings are the 40 % sector - roughly they consume 40 % of the resources, 40 % of the energy and generate 40 % of the waste in an organisation. An environmental focus can reduce this consumption and lead to an economic profit. Good tenancy agreements should give both parties the

incentive to behave better environmentally, hence save energy, resources and waste and thereby achieve lower cost for both.

Textiles: Textiles are more than clothes; they are curtains, carpets, bed clothes and so on. Durability, washing, comfort, and other properties for the user are in focus, but also the use of chemicals and poor production conditions for workers are addressed.

Paper and printing services: There is no excuse for not taking environmental considerations for these products. Eco-labelling and EMS are widely used in this industry. We'll help you formulate the criteria, find the best suppliers and make a good environmental choice.

PCs and information technology: These products help you act more efficiently and thereby save the environment. But there are many ways to design an IT-system - and it all starts by identifying your organisation's needs and matching these with efficient long-term solutions in the market. This is the most important part, but an emphasis should also be put on the very products to be purchased. Energy use, chemical content and durability are important properties to address.

Net-based conferencing and collaboration: New technology is the future way of business travelling - most of the time. This is not only good for the environment which does not need an increase in the number of cars and flights, but it is good economy as well. Not only will travel costs be reduced but, most importantly, efficiency is given a boost - more is produced with fewer man hours and innovation stimulated. Actually, efficient use of new technology might just be the solution to give your organisation a needed cost reduction. BUT a major challenge is to take a holistic view and moving funds from the travel budget to information technology.

GRIP also participates in national and international processes to establish the legal framework, the definitions, studies, tools and criteria for green public procurement. This work is presently being undertaken in the scope of UN, EU and the Nordic Council of Ministers. GRIP is the secretariat for the Norwegian GPP-board, an advisory board on how Green Public Procurement can be promoted in Norway.

Much of GRIP's material and know-how is available for free on the Internet. For bigger assignments we can do the job for a fee. Note that our general condition will always be that the experience accumulated from an assignment can be made available to others. GRIP is more than a consultancy firm - GRIP is a catalyst for change.

Please take contact. For more information see www.grip.no or call +47 22 97 98 00.

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