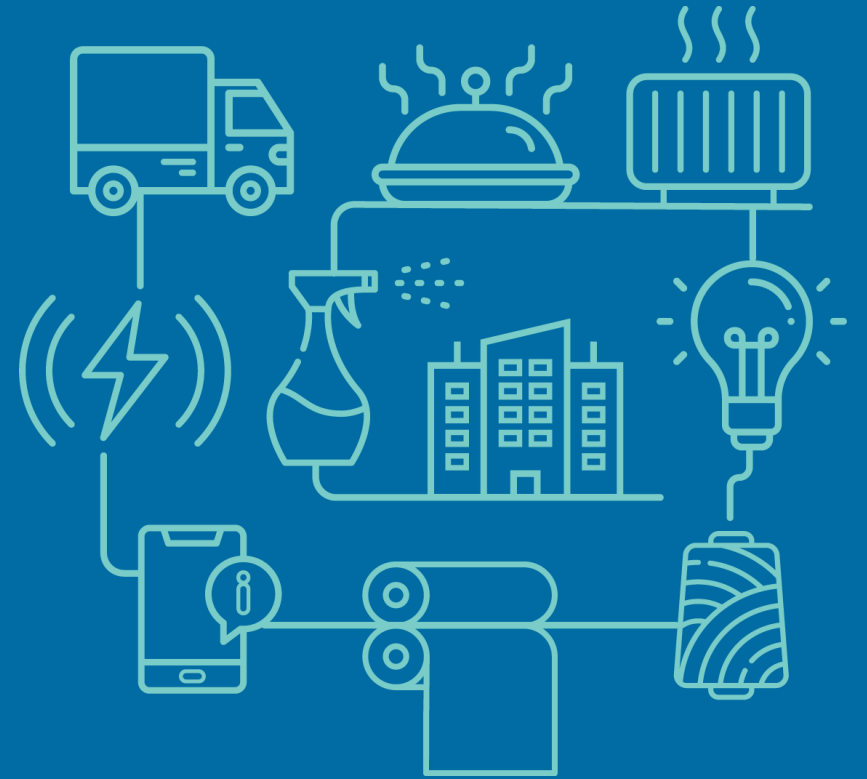


GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Information for suppliers





€20
BILLION



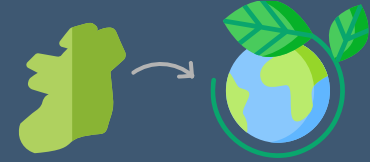
WHAT IS GPP?

Green Public Procurement is about the public sector choosing more sustainable products and services

In Ireland, public procurement is worth more than **€20 billion each year**

From major infrastructure investments, through to small local deliveries, each contract has an environmental impact

IRELAND'S COMMITMENTS



Ireland has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by

51% by 2030,
and reaching
net zero by 2050

Public bodies must deliver a

50% improvement in
energy-efficiency
by 2030

Under the [Buying Greener Strategy](#) and [Circular 17/2025](#), **all tenders valued above €50,000 (or €200,000 for works) must include green criteria**

Other targets apply in specific sectors, e.g. **a minimum of 10% by value of food procured in public contracts to be certified organic** under the [Public Sector Climate Action Mandate](#)

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:

- *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 (setting out the 2030 and 2050 commitments)*
- *Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (2024) Buying Greener Strategy and Action Plan*
- *Office of Government Procurement (2025) Circular 17/2025: Updated Green Public Procurement Instructions for Public Bodies*
- *Government of Ireland, Public Sector Climate Action Mandate 2025 (Appendix 1 of 2025 Climate Action Plan)*



EU LAW & POLICY

EU public procurement rules allow environmental considerations to be included at each stage of a tender

For some purchases, public bodies must apply minimum environmental criteria, e.g. **energy-using products, batteries, buildings and vehicles**

EU GPP criteria based on life-cycle assessment studies have been adopted for 20 product/service categories

There is increasing focus on **circular economy** considerations, e.g. in the Ecodesign regulations

Further information on EU law and policy relating to Green Public Procurement is available at: https://green-forum.ec.europa.eu/green-business/green-public-procurement_en

ABOUT GPP

GPP is about specific actions which suppliers and service providers take in delivering public contracts

GPP criteria are designed to be fair to all bidders – and require proof of the green claims made



GPP **isn't about** green marketing or general corporate commitments



EXAMPLE: GPP IN ACTION

Bus Éireann implemented GPP in a tender for vehicle cleaning and auxiliary cleaning services, across locations throughout the country

Market consultation held in advance of the tender to ensure sustainable services were available

EPA [GPP Guidance](#) and [Irish GPP Criteria for Indoor Cleaning Services](#) were used to set criteria relating to staff training, sustainable products/equipment and waste segregation

15% of the marks at award stage available for these measures

Smart dose technology and compact high dilution products has resulted in reduced use of chemicals, plastic and cardboard which has saved approx. 3580 kg of GHG emissions

Full case study available [here](#)

CASE STUDY



EPA GUIDANCE ON GPP

Updated in 2024 to reflect legislation and best practice for GPP

Explains concepts such as market engagement, needs assessment, GPP criteria and life-cycle costing

Includes advice on implementing, monitoring and reporting on GPP

Gives an overview of environmental impacts for 13 product/service sectors and relevant legislation, standards and certifications

Links to further resources and helpful tools

The EPA guidance on GPP (third edition) was published in July 2024 and can be accessed at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/circular-economy/resources/epa-gpp-guidance-for-the-public-sector-2024.php>



IRISH GPP CRITERIA



Energy-related products



Food and catering services



Heating equipment



ICT products and services



Indoor cleaning services



Indoor and outdoor lighting



Design, construction and management of office buildings



Paper products and printing services



Textile products and services



Road transport vehicles and services



Furniture and related services

IRISH GPP CRITERIA

Detailed criteria covering 11 priority product and service groups

Based on EU GPP criteria, with some adjustments to reflect the Irish market

WHAT DO THE CRITERIA INCLUDE?

Specifications, selection and award criteria and contract performance conditions

Relevant standards, legislation, certifications and ecolabels

Verification clauses – stating the evidence bidders need to provide

11
PRIORITY
SECTORS



GPP & THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Circular economy is about moving away from the 'take-make-use-waste' model by maintaining the value of resources

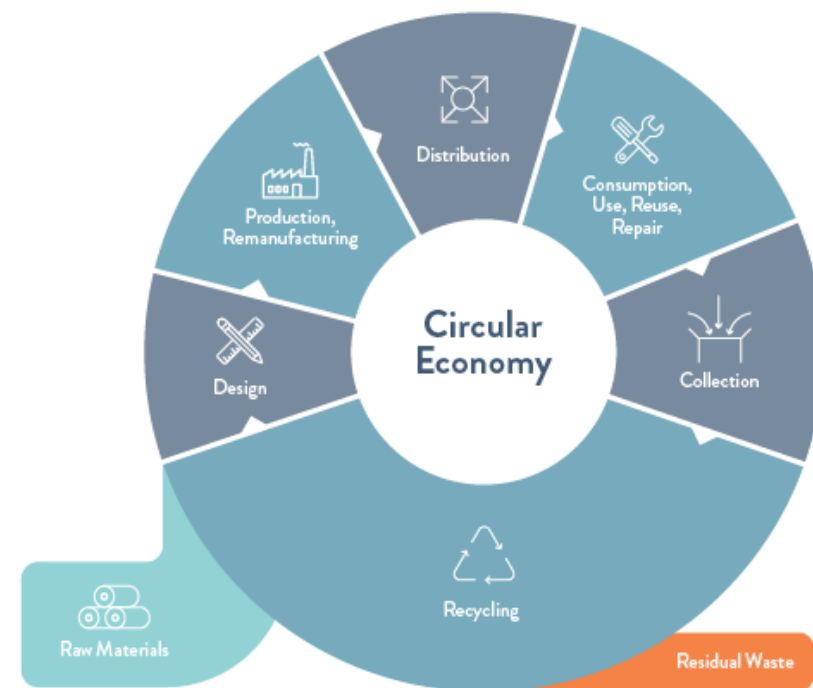
GPP criteria address the entire life-cycle, e.g. raw materials, manufacturing and processing, use phase and end-of-life

EXAMPLES:

The [ICT criteria](#) include requirements for rechargeable battery performance, repairability and design for disassembly

The [food and catering services criteria](#) include requirements for organic and sustainable production, packaging and redistribution of excess food

EPA Circular Economy Programme: <https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/circular-economy/>



Source: EPA Circular Economy Programme



WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT IN TENDERS

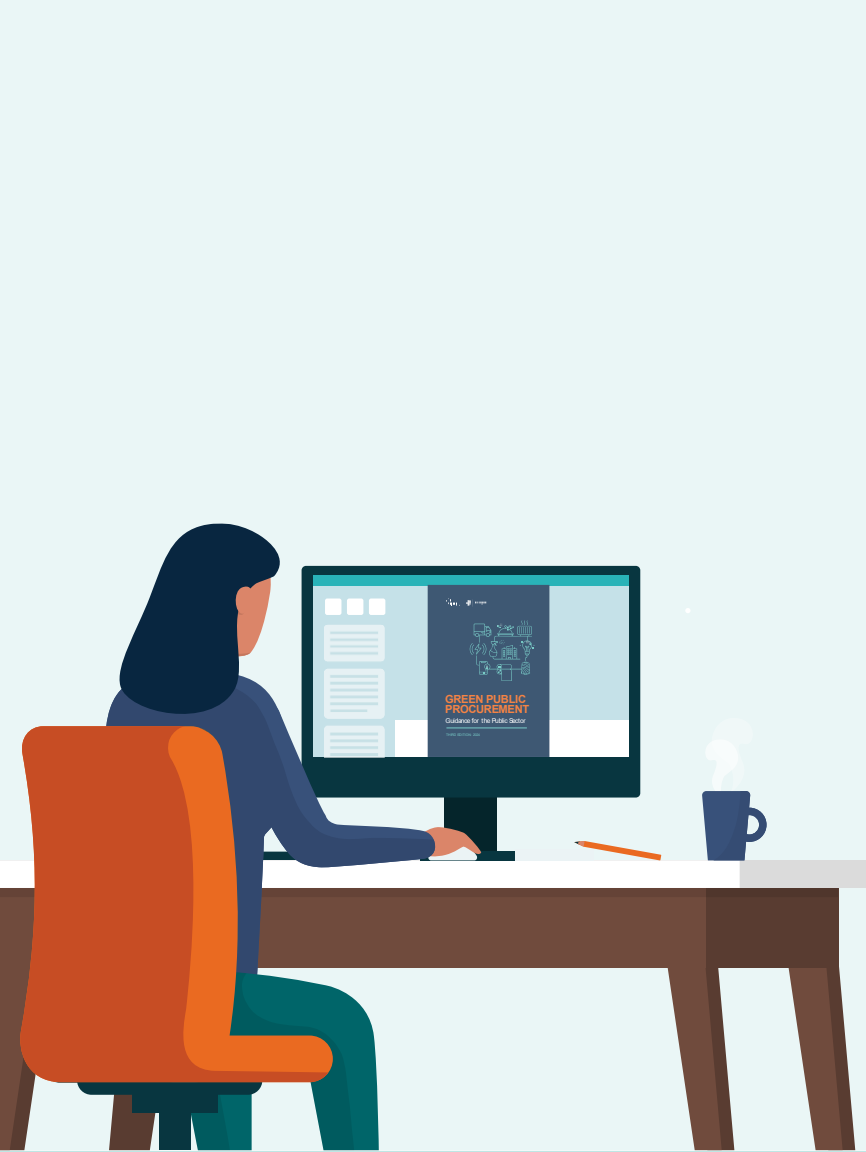
Exclusion grounds will include breaches of applicable environmental law

Selection criteria may ask for evidence of environmental management systems, supply chain management systems, previous experience, technical capacity and staff training/qualifications

Technical specifications will set minimum environmental requirements

Award criteria may target enhanced environmental performance

Contract performance clauses will enforce the environmental aspects and set requirements for monitoring and reporting



HOW TO PREPARE

Ask your public sector clients about how they are implementing GPP

Keep up to date with developments at EU level, including **new editions of the GPP criteria** and **changes to legislation**

Consider how you will demonstrate compliance with GPP criteria in the sector(s) in which you operate

Invest in relevant training and independent certification to demonstrate your firm's green credentials

Measure the environmental impacts of your activities and set targets to reduce them

There are many freely available resources for measuring organisational/product environmental footprint:

- **Greenhouse Gas Protocol:** ghgprotocol.org/
- **Carbon Disclosure Project:** www.cdp.net/en
- **Product Environmental Footprint:** https://green-forum.ec.europa.eu/green-business/environmental-footprint-methods_en
- **Global Reporting Initiative:** www.globalreporting.org/

LINKS & RESOURCES

EPA page on Green Public Procurement: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/circular-economy/green-public-procurement/>

Gov.ie page on Sustainable Public Procurement: <https://www.gov.ie/en/office-of-government-procurement/publications/sustainable-public-procurement/>

EU GPP website: https://green-forum.ec.europa.eu/green-business/green-public-procurement_en

Office of Government Procurement Circulars and Information Notes: www.gov.ie/en/organisation/office-of-government-procurement/

