

Green Public Procurement in Estonia

Public sector consist of 14% (2003) of total GDP in Estonia. Approximately 75% of public purchases are done within public procurement process. It indicates the great potential of public institutions to influence the “greening” of markets and environmental friendly consumption (and production).

The GPP activities in Estonia are very much influenced by the EU policies and legal acts, e.g. Integrated Product Policy encourages MS to draw up GPP policies and action plans, requirements of new Public Procurement Directives are adapted to Estonian legislation.

Legal status

There is no legal obligation for GPP in Estonia. Main Act that is regulating the procurement related activities is the **Public Procurement Act (2000)**, which is at the moment in the process of revision. The new draft of an Act integrates the requirements of the new directives into the procurement procedure, including environmental requirements. PS. New act will get into force in spring 2006.

Activities

Seminars/conferences/trainings (the list is not complete)

- Seminar on GPP in Estonia (within the Estonian-Walloonian cooperation project), 8 Nov 2005. Organised by SEI-Tallinn.
- Workshop on GPP for the members of Estonian Association for Environmental Management (www.ekja.ee), 31 March 2005.
- Seminar on Swedish experience on Public Procurement, 7 Oct 2004. Organised by Estonian Chamber of Commerce.
- Seminar on Green Procurement Possibilities in Latvia and Estonia 1st July 2004 (Riga). Organised by Estonian Green Movement and Latvian Green Liberty.
- Workshop on sustainable production and consumption in the Baltic States. 18-19 June 2004 Vilnius. Organised by UNEP and local Baltic partners.
- EcoForum Batica project (2002-2005) (SEI-Tallinn). Environmental management trainings for state officials (MoEnvironment, MoEconomic Affairs) held by Swedish EMAS Council (included the topic of GPP).

Estonian representatives have participated in expert meeting on environmental public procurement in Brussels (Oct 2004) and conferences (Sept 2005) organised by European Commission.

Good cases related to products

Roheline Trükis (Triip) www.triip.ee

Green Publication trademark by printing enterprise Triip AS. Uses only natural colours and oils and recycled or certified paper.

Roheline Energia (AS Eesti Energia) www.roheline.energia.ee

Green Energy project is Eesti Energia's contribution to support and promote increased development of renewable energy production in Estonia. Green Energy trademark may be used by the companies, government institutions and residential customers of Eesti Energia who have purchased a Green Energy Certificate.

Ökosahver (Eco-pantry) www.sahver.ee

Provides information and distribution service of organic food products.

Links

Estonian Association for Quality (www.eaq.ee)

Database of ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certified organisations.

Estonian Green Movement (www.roheline.ee)

Database (table) of eco-labelled products available for the final consumer in the stores (mainly Nordic Swan, KRAV)

Estonian Ministry of Finances (www.fin.ee)

Information on Public Procurement Act, a new draft of the Act, Buying green! Handbook.

Estonian Ministry of the Environment (www.envir.ee/emas)

Information on Environmental Management Systems (EMS), ecolabels, etc.

Projects

Estonian Energy Ltd. Introduction and Implementation of Life Cycle Assessment Methodology in Estonia: Effects of Oil Shale Electricity on the Environmental Performance of Products. Assisted by the EU Life-Environment Fund (www.energia.ee/OSELCA)

LCA has never been used to determine the environmental performance of any product in Estonia. As energy is used during production of almost all other products, the oil shale energy production system should be the first system investigated using LCA, before others can start. Therefore, carrying out the LCA of oil shale electricity will demonstrate and disseminate how LCA works in practice.

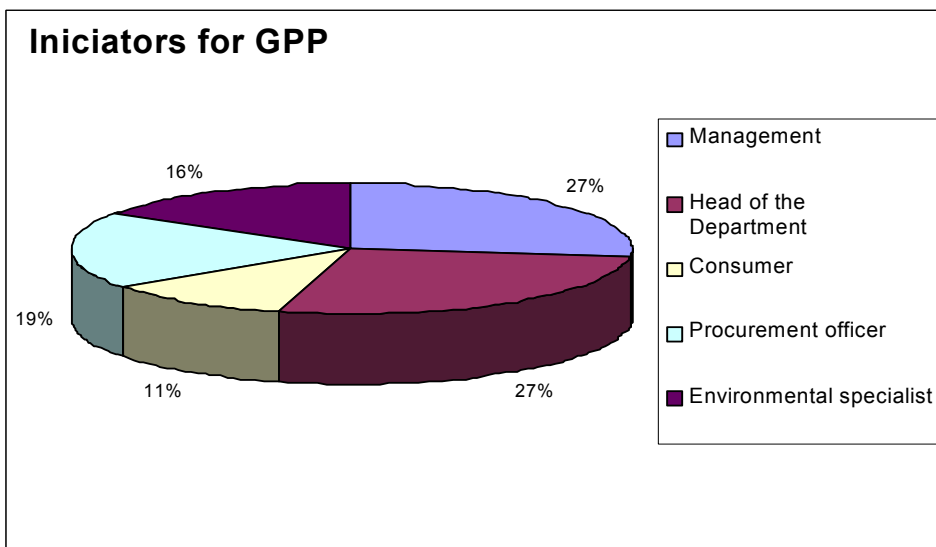
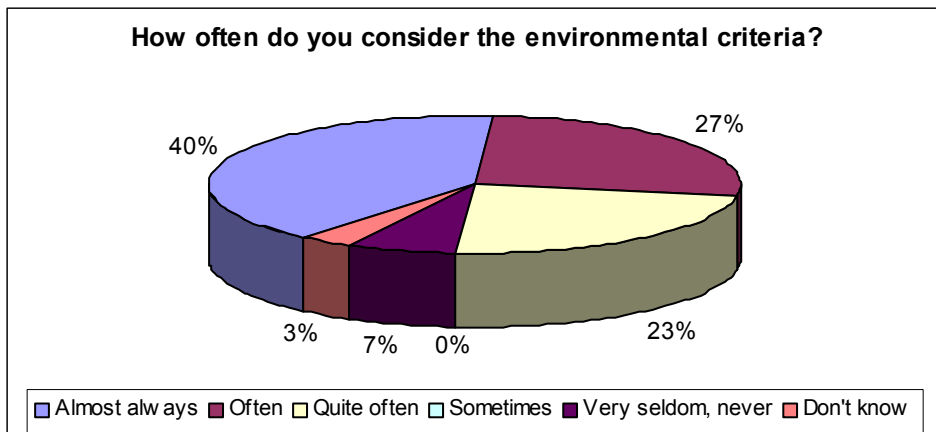
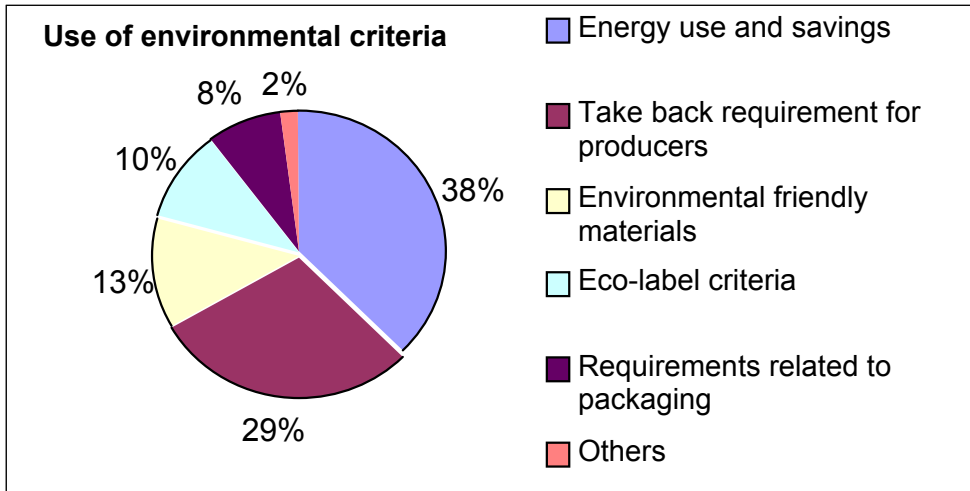
The main objective of the OSELCA project is to introduce LCA method in Estonia by carrying out a life cycle assessment of oil shale electricity.

Estonian Fund for Nature. 2003. Environmental Action Plan for the Ministry of Defence 2004-2014.

Proposal to include environmental criteria into procurement process (e.g buying organic food).

SEI-Tallinn. 2005-2006. Introduction of GPP to Estonian public sector (Estonian-Walloonian cooperation project). Research on GPP situation in Estonia (results in Estonian, pg.3), study visit to Belgium, guidance materials for implementing environmental criteria into procurement process.

One page of some results of the research (public authorities):



Tools/methodologies (of Estonian origin)

University of Tartu, Institute of Geography (www.geo.ut.ee)

Environmental assessment tool for buildings and constructions.

The creators of the tool have made proposal for the state institutions to use the tool in procurement process:

- For evaluating environmental performance of buildings and construction works
- For evaluating construction projects (financed by Estonian Environmental Investment Centre)

Some cases

- Ministry of the Environment. Purchasing of the office furniture (requirement for ISO 14001).
- Requirement of ISO 14001 for purchasing chairs for Estonian National Art Museum.
- Ministry of Finances. Purchasing of office equipment equal with EnergyStar label.

Conclusions

- No systematic activities in the field of GPP on the state level (no policy or action plan on state level how to develop GPP)
- No systematic activities on the institutional/organisation level; use of GPP is rare and episodic
- Lack of knowledge on GPP, environmental aspects and criteria (especially among procurement officials, also enterprises). Need for information, guidance materials, databases and trainings
- Public purchasing legislation do not support enough the GPP
- The main criteria for purchasing is the price
- General overview of the GPP situation in Estonia
- It is not common to purchase environmental friendly and eco-labelled products and to use the life-cycle approach of calculating the costs
- No special criteria for different product groups