

# GPP in Ireland & Dublin City Case Study

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# Introduction



- ▶ Ireland had 3 Waste Management Regions
- ▶ 3 Regional WMPOs
- ▶ Together we implement the National Waste Plan for a Circular Economy
- ▶ Statutory document
- ▶ GPP is key to building a circular economy

# Setting the scene for green public procurement

- ▶ GPP definition: a process whereby public bodies 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 (European Commission, Public Procurement for a Better Environment, COM (2008), July 2008)
- ▶ GPP in Ireland - Sustainable public procurement public bodies seek to achieve an appropriate balance of the three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social, and environmental - at all stages of the procurement process.

# Setting the scene for green public procurement

- ▶ Annual Government of Ireland's spending = €22 billion
- ▶ Accounts for 10% - 12% of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- ▶ Public sector has significant potential to influence the provision and normalisation of less polluting and more resource efficient goods and services in the Irish economy
- ▶ Public sector must lead by example
- ▶ Green Public procurement is key to Ireland's transition to a green, low-carbon, circular economy

# Green public procurement policy progression in Ireland

- ▶ 2012 - Green Tenders - An Action Plan on Green Public Procurement
- ▶ 2014 - Following EU legislation - EPA in Ireland publishes Green Procurement guidance for public sector
- ▶ **2019 - Climate Action Charter for municipalities includes a commitment to Green Procurement**
- ▶ 2020 - Government Circular 20/2019 instructs Government Departments to consider including green criteria in public procurement processes
- ▶ 2021 - EPA published Green Public Procurement: Guidance for the Public Sector and GPP guidance criteria for product/sectoral groups (updated in 2024)
- ▶ 2024 - Buying Greener: Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2020 - 2027

# Organisations leading green public procurement policy and practice in Ireland

## Dept. of Environment

- Policy
- Strategy
- Awareness & dialogue

## Environmental Protection Agency

- Guidance
- Training
- Reporting

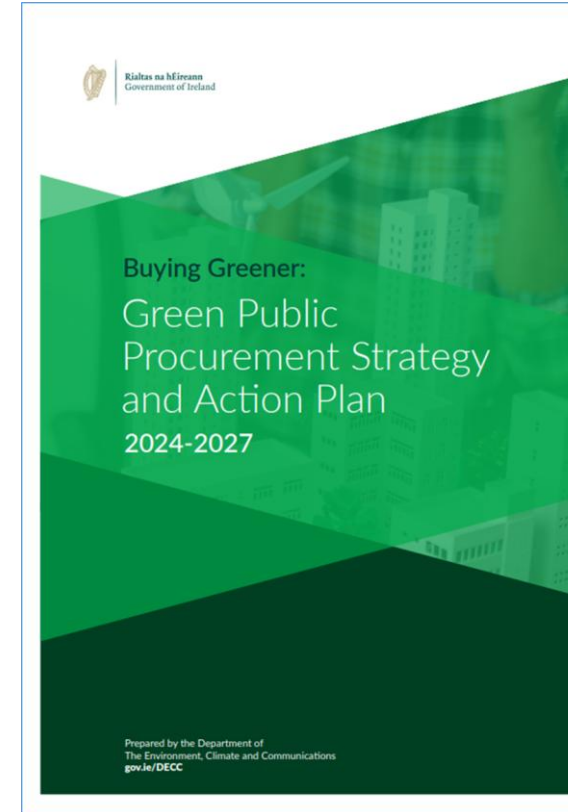
## Office of Government Procurement

- GPP CriteriaSearchTool
- Public Procurement Strategy
- National public service tender processes

# GPP Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027

## - Objectives

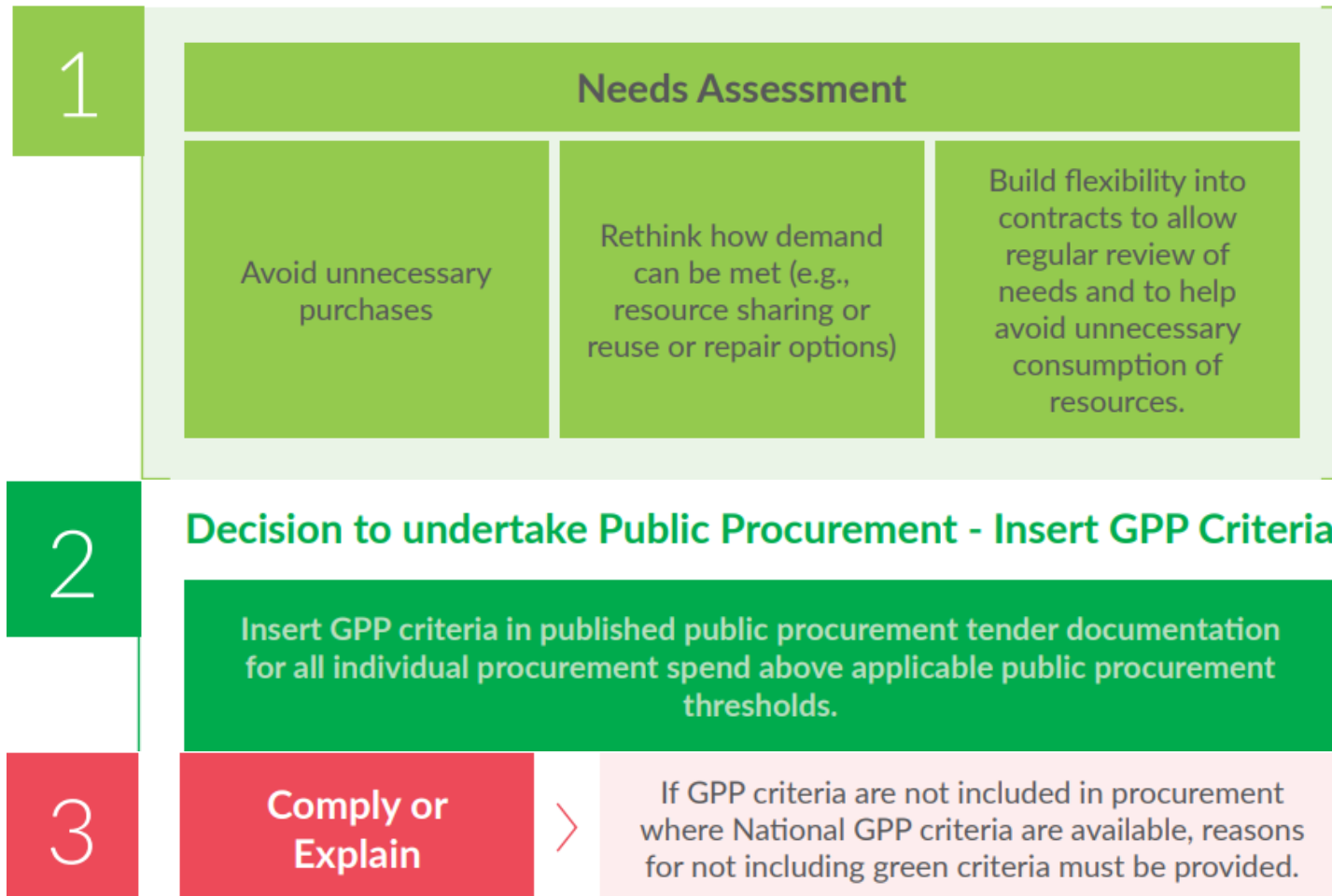
- ▶ Enhance GPP as a key tool in helping transition to a circular economy.
- ▶ Ensure GPP is a core and integral component of the public procurement process.
- ▶ Set out measures to ensure that all procurement using public funds include green criteria, where possible.
- ▶ Support further development of GPP criteria, enhance GPP knowledge and expertise - eg training
- ▶ Facilitate participation in international collective efforts to use GPP as a lever for sustainable production and consumption
- ▶ Support market conditions needed to deliver sustainable and innovative solutions for GPP



[See here for full document](#)

# GPP Strategy - Implementation Mandate

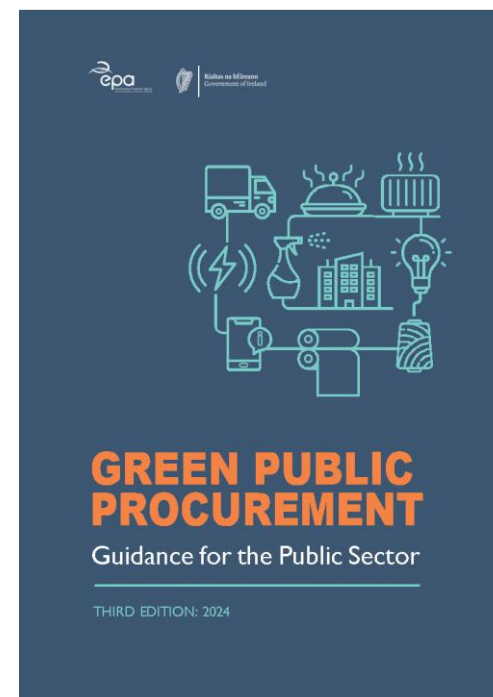
## - for all public sector purchases





# GPP Guidance EPA- 11 priority sectors

 Road transport vehicles and services	 Indoor and outdoor lighting (including road lighting and traffic signals)
 ICT products and services (including data centres)	 Heating equipment (including cogeneration, trigeneration and heat pumps)
 Food and catering services	 Energy-related products (white goods/appliances, electronic displays, vacuum cleaners)
 Cleaning products and services	 Paper products and printing services
 Building design, construction and management (due to be updated in 2024/5)	 Textile products and services (including uniforms and laundry services)
 Furniture and related services (new criteria set published in 2024)	



[See here for full document](#)

# Example criteria set: Cleaning products and services

## Criteria can be included:

- ▶ When defining the subject matter of the contract
- ▶ In exclusion grounds and selection criteria
- ▶ As technical specification
- ▶ As qualitative award criteria
- ▶ In the application of life-cycle costing
- ▶ In contract performance clauses

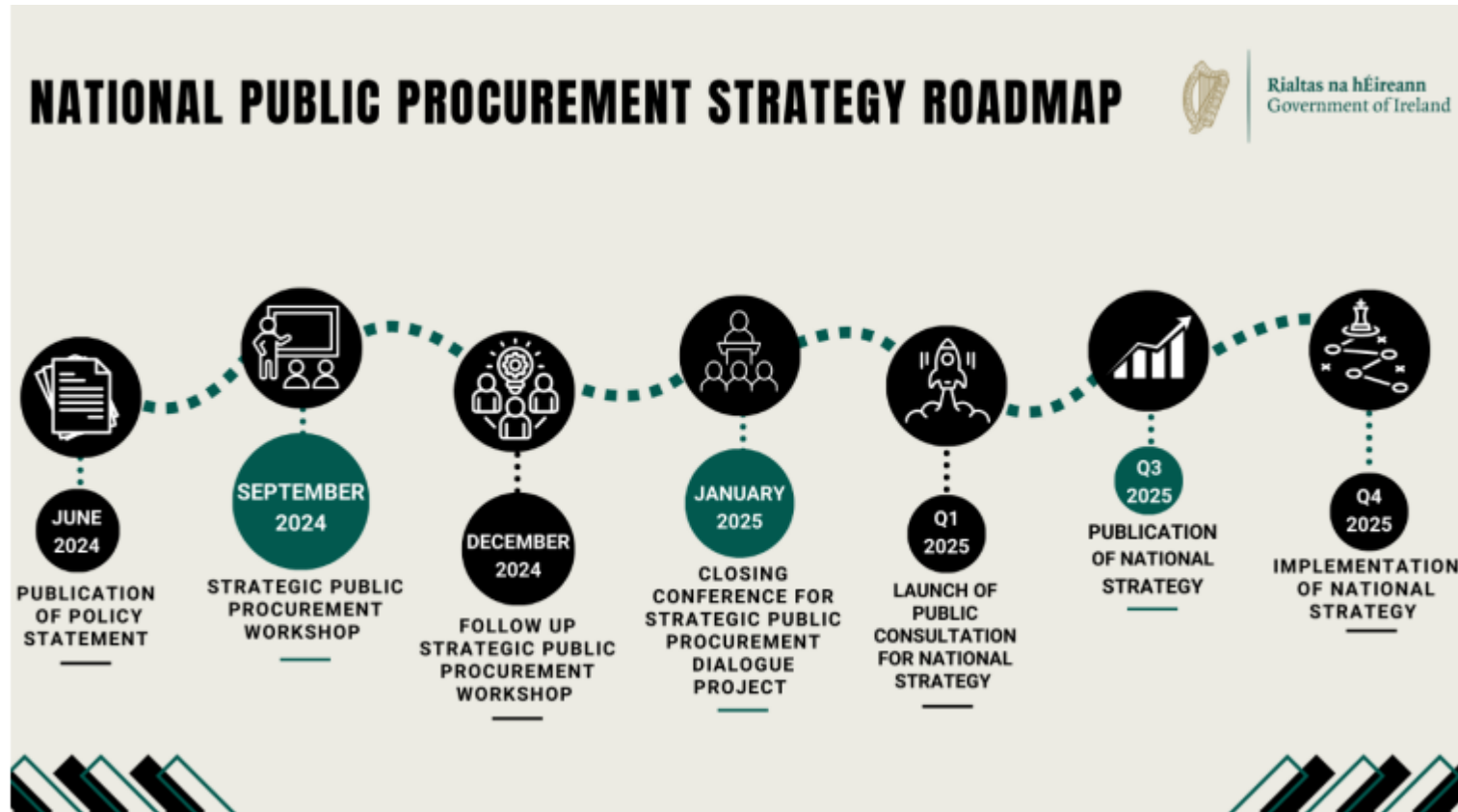
- Reduction in product usage by environmentally conscious cleaning methods
- Use of ecolabelled cleaning products, accessories (e.g. microfibre cloths) and consumables (e.g. paper products) with lower environmental impact
- Requiring packaging which reduces waste to a minimum while still ensuring the safety and preservation of products. Packaging materials must be either reusable, recyclable or compostable at point of use except where safety considerations prevent this
- Training of staff in water and waste management
- Use of concentrated products and correct dilution practices
- Use of energy-efficient vacuum cleaners

# EPA - Training for public sector & for suppliers

- ▶ GPP Training for public sector employees 2020 - 2022
  - ▶ Online Training
  - ▶ GPP information workshops
  - ▶ Case Studies
  - ▶ Further training planned
- ▶ Green Public Procurement - Information for Suppliers
  - ▶ Explains GPP principals & criteria
  - ▶ Explains what to expect in tenders
  - ▶ Explains how to prepare




# Office of Government Procurement - PP Strategy Roadmap






[See here for full document](#)

# Office of Government Procurement – GPP Criteria Search Tool

Search criteria using a keyword:

coffee ✕ ▼ Search 

Or choose a sector:

<span>✓ Updated</span> Energy-related products 	<span>✓ Updated</span> Food and catering services
<span>✓ Updated</span> ICT products and services 	<span>✓ Updated</span> Indoor cleaning services
<span>✓ No Update Published</span> Office building design, construction and 	<span>✓ Updated</span> Paper products and printing service

Search date: 2025-05-11

## Selected Irish GPP criteria:

This document only contains criteria and methods of verification to copy and paste into procurement documents or amend as necessary. **Please download [Green Public Procurement – Guidance for the Public Sector](#) and the relevant Criteria document(s) (indicated below each criterion, below) for more information.**

### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION | CORE AND COMPREHENSIVE | TS2

Food and catering services | Food and beverages |

#### Organic food products

**Option A:** The following food and drink products **[list to be inserted by the contracting authority, refer to explanatory notes]** must comply with Regulation (EU) 2018/848\* as amended.

**Option B:** At least **X%\*\*** of the total number of food and drink items supplied must comply with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 as amended.

► [GPPCriteriaSearch](#)

# How is it going? Reported figures from EPA for 2022 for green public procurement in Ireland

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS REPORTED:



Total spend of **€922M** on in-scope contracts, of which **€310M** included green criteria.



This represents an average of **34%** of the total spend (compared to 10% in 2021)



Of the total number of in-scope contracts, **29%** were reported to have incorporated GPP (compared to 24% in 2021)

## IN RELATION TO THE TEN 'PRIORITY' SECTORS:



Green criteria were incorporated in **55%** of the spend reported (compared to **38%** in 2021)



representing **32%** of the number of contracts (compared to **30%** in 2021)

## IN RELATION TO THE 'OTHER' SECTORS



Green criteria were incorporated in **30%** of the spend (compared to **6%** in 2021)



representing **28%** of the number of contracts (compared to **22%** in 2021)

# Challenges & Working together

## Challenges

- ▶ Concerns about cost
- ▶ Concerns about product/service availability
- ▶ Concerns about market readiness
- ▶ Concerns about criteria complexity and/or possible legal issues
- ▶ Confidence & capacity of public sector buyers to navigate procurement rules & incorporate GPP

## Practical Actions for Working Together

- ▶ Effective engagement between buyers and suppliers is really helpful
- ▶ GPP reporting is key to understanding what is happening in the market and how we can improve this
- ▶ For suppliers, tracking and communicating sustainability actions helps win tender points
- ▶ For suppliers, seek clarification during tender process if needed - ask questions



# Case study - Dublin City Council - Textiles collection for reuse - Context

- ▶ International Second-hand clothes markets collapsed
- ▶ Covid disruption, Geopolitical upheaval
- ▶ Contract expired
- ▶ By Jan 2025 -250 tonnes of used textiles (mainly clothing) in Warehouses
- ▶ Warehouse space at capacity / collection service slow & stalling
- ▶ Littering & scavenging (Ebay!)
- ▶ TNFS office stopped some shipments - concern over sorting procedures





# Case study - Dublin City Council - Textiles collection for reuse - Context

- ▶ 5 million second-hand items of clothing arriving in Ghana every week
- ▶ About 40% is waste - unsuitable for resale
- ▶ Informal dump sites - many close to waterbodies
- ▶ Synthetic fibres resulting in micro-plastics pollution
- ▶ Elevated benzene levels (from burning textiles)



Textile waste in Ghana - Image  
from Greenpeace

# Case Study -Dublin City Council - Textile collection tender basics

- ▶ Provision of Services for the Collection and Processing of Textiles for Reuse or Recycling
- ▶ 40 tonnes per month from 34 collection sites + occasional pop-up collections
- ▶ New Tender - Single-party Framework - 2 Lots - 4 year tender (closing date 9<sup>th</sup> May)
- ▶ Lot 1 - Collection from 4 city districts - 27 collection sites
- ▶ Lot 2 - Collection from remaining city district - 7 collection sites
- ▶ Service Requirements:
  - ▶ Collection
  - ▶ Cleaning of Clothes Banks and surrounding area
  - ▶ Reporting weights, photos etc
  - ▶ Verifiable audit trail

# Tender Criterion A: Service

- ▶ Response to items 2.3.1 - 2.3.4: Provision and maintenance of infrastructure, performance and collection from clothes banks including proposed monitoring system, proposal for cleaning of banks and surroundings and details of:
- ▶ **How the tenderer will ensure that the textiles are collected in a way that creates a new low carbon Dublin economy.**
- ▶ **How the tenderer will assess the ethics of the organisations to which the textiles are sold and reused by.**
- ▶ How the tenderer will use the opportunity to increase access to economic opportunity for Dublin residents.

# Tender Criterion B: Reporting and Audit Trail

- ▶ Tenderer must submit a comprehensive response to items 2.3.5 & 2.3.6 and submit a proposal for monthly reporting to contracting authority. Must include sample reports and weight dockets.
- ▶ Details must be submitted of the sorting process used to separate items to be sold for reuse as originally intended, those sold for repurposing and any waste textiles, including details of the grading process and number of grades textiles are sorted into
- ▶ Details of the percentages of textiles that are typically sold for reuse as originally intended and those sold for repurposing.
- ▶ Details of how these items are repurposed must be submitted
- ▶ The materials should only be marketed and transported to reputable and ethical recycling/recovery/reuse outlets.
- ▶ Details of markets to which textiles are exported including breakdown of resale/repurpose and disposal of waste items.

# Case Study -Dublin City Council - Textile collection tender evaluation criteria - Lot 1

Criterion C	Description	Evaluation Weighting
A	Service Proposal Provision and maintenance of infrastructure, performance and collection from clothes banks	40%
B	Reporting and Verifiable Audit Trail Proposal for monthly reporting to contracting authority	40%
C	Cost	20%

# Lot 2 - Reserved for Sheltered Workshops (pass/fail criterion)

- ▶ Under EU Directive 2014/24, public authorities can restrict competition 'economic operators whose mission is the social and professional integration of disadvantaged workers and workers with disabilities provided that at least 30% of the workers are disabled or disadvantaged'.
- ▶ For Lot 2 (North Central Area) - seeking submissions from economic operators that have a mission to socially and professionally integrate disadvantaged workers and workers with disabilities.
- ▶ Details of the overarching mission of their organisation and accompanying objectives.
- ▶ Details of composition of their current workforce and the percentage that are defined as disabled or disadvantaged. Evidence of 30% disabled or disadvantaged workers
- ▶ Details of how they will use the delivery of the service as an opportunity to further develop their workforces from disabled or disadvantaged groups.

# Case Study -Dublin City Council - Textile collection tender evaluation criteria - Lot 2

Criterion C	Description	Evaluation Weighting
A	Service Proposal Provision and maintenance of infrastructure, performance and collection from clothes banks	30%
B	Reporting and Verifiable Audit Trail Proposal for monthly reporting to contracting authority	30%
C	Cost	40%

# Thank you for listening

