Green Public Procurement in UK

Green public procurement (GPP) - Lead the change
National Conference

Barbara Morton

12 April 2010 Tallinn, Estonia
Outline

- Applying product criteria: UK experience
- Targets to be met
- Government Buying Standards
- Greening ICT Strategy
- Summary
UK Experience: Green Public Procurement

- GPP can help procurers meet their environmental objectives and targets, including carbon reduction, through clearly defining specifications for goods and services that address all environmental impacts across the supply chain.
UK Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets (under review)

- Carbon Emissions from offices: Reduce by 12.5% to Reduce by 30%
- Energy efficiency: Increase efficiency per M² by 15% to Increase efficiency per M² by 30%
- Waste arisings: Reduce by 5% to Reduce by 25%
- Water consumption: Reduce by 25% to Reduce by 25%
- Recycling: Increase to 40% to Increase to 75%
- Carbon neutral office estate: Baseline to Targets
- Carbon Emissions from vehicles: Reduce by 5% to Reduce by 30%
- Biodiversity: 95% SSSIs in target condition

Targets

Years:
- 2000
- 2005
- 2010
- 2015
- 2020

UK Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets (under review)
UK Experience: Green Public Procurement

- Political target exists that by 2010, 50% of all public procurement tenders are ‘green’
  - i.e. compliant with EU common ‘core’ GPP criteria
UK Experience: Green Public Procurement

- Environmentally sustainable goods and services are not always more expensive upfront – and are usually cheaper when considered across their whole life cycle
UK: Government Buying Standards

- Paper/Envelopes
- Cleaning Products
- Office Machinery
- Construction
- Transport

- Furniture
- Electrical Goods
- Textiles
- Gardening Services
UK: Government Buying Standards

- Minimum mandatory technical specifications (market average level)
- ‘Best practice’ standards
- Developed by Defra
- Help meet operations targets
UK: Government Buying Standards

- These best practice specifications are more stretching than the mandatory minimum.

- They are voluntary for those procurers that wish to purchase the “best in class” products in certain areas.

- These are likely to become the minimum over different time periods depending on the product or product group.
UK: Government Buying Standards

- Use of Government Buying Standards monitored by:
  - Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement (CESP)
  - Part of Office of Government Commerce
  - Leads on procurement policy
  - Also tracks progress on sustainable procurement across central government
Greening ICT Strategy

Launched July 2008
18 recommendations for carbon reduction

Dept of Health
1500 end of life printers, scanners and fax machines replaced by 330 multi-functional devices

‘Think before you print’ campaign
Volumes reduced by 15%
Greening ICT Strategy

Results reported in Sept 2009:

- 110 public bodies have taken action
- 12,000 tonnes of carbon saved
- £6.8 million cost savings
Building capability

• Defra supporting the National Sustainable Commissioning and Procurement Programme
• Using Marrakech Task Force on SPP Approach
• Training for procurers and senior decision-makers began in 2009 with English Local Government
Building capability

• Material adapted for context with input from expert group
• In 2010 programme extending to:
  – higher education
  – health sector
• Training of trainers to build capacity and understanding throughout UK public sector
Summary

- Applying product criteria: UK experience
- Government Buying Standards being disseminated widely
- Raise environmental standards and are cost-effective
- Working towards harmonisation of criteria
- Greening ICT saves money while reducing emissions

Thank you for your attention!