PARTNERS QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE GREEN ICON

Project ID : AD-2010_1a-21113
Title: Awareness raising on environmentally sound use of interior materials and construction (GREEN-ICON)

ICELAND

QUESTIONS

Legislation:

- **What are national rules regarding green procurement?**

Icelandic law is in similar stage as the Eu regulations, The government has been looking at the being with other nations in the head start of environmental topic’s. Iceland has now institute 75% of the current environmental regulations.

If starting from the beginning, the Icelandic government’s policy on *Green Public Procurement* (GPP) became effective in 2009. The overall objective of the policy is to promote environmental protection and advance sustainable development in the society. The policy was developed in collaboration with two of the largest municipal local governments, Reykjavik and Hafnarfjordur. The specific aims of this policy are to ingrate environmental considerations at all levels of public procurement programs both products, services and work. It further has the explicit aim to serve as a best practice guidelines and facilitate environmental considerations into all aspects of procurement in Iceland, beyond the public sector. It encourages both levels of public administration to adopt GPP, both the governmental level as well as the municipal local government sector. The government aims to support the implementation of this policy by increasing information and advisory services to procurers, buyers and sellers. This has been facilitated by developing a web based toolkit - [www.vinn.is](http://www.vinn.is) - that disseminates relevant information to stakeholders.


Concerning the legal aspect, **GPP in Iceland mostly is set by European Procurement Directives.** In Iceland, ministries, state institutions and municipalities have the authority to purchase products up to a certain value without any intervention from the State Trading Centre. However purchases that exceed these limits must be contracted out via the State Trading Centre. But lets start from the beginning.
Article 1 of the State Law on Procurement of Iceland (84/2007) says that one of the main goals of procurement policy is to enhance research and development. While the word “innovation” is not mentioned explicitly, there are several references to research and development. In short, public procurers are bound by law to use public procurement as a tool to enhance and encourage innovation in Iceland.

According to the Science & Technology Policy (promoted by The Science & Technology Policy Council) for the years 2006-2009, public institutions are greatly encouraged to promote innovation in Iceland by steering public procurement into that direction. One of the Council’s suggestions was that public institutions should (to a certain degree) look beyond the lowest bid in favour of promising new products and services.

In 2005 the STC and the Federation of Icelandic Industries (FII) joined hands in the discussion and formulation of ‘Innovative public procurement.’ The results of these discussions were detailed in a specific report on the matter in May 2006. In the report Icelandic ministries and other institutions are urged to tailor their procurement practices toward innovation, research and development. In the report it is suggested that government officials use the European Union Innovation Policy as guidance.

Talking more about GPP policy in Iceland, Green procurement is gaining a strong foothold in Iceland. The law on public procurement (84/2007) contains references to green procurement or eco-friendly procurement. The law stipulates that public procurement may favor products/services that are eco-friendly and/or promote environmental awareness. In March 2009 the minister of finance and the minister of environment signed an agreement on eco-friendly public procurement. The agreement will be used as policy guidance for all public procurement in Iceland.

Improving procurement approaches is also a focus among respondent ministries. The State Trading Centre of Iceland (STC) has reviewed its tender descriptions and tendering process, and found that these are now much simpler (more user-friendly) and clearer than before.

Concerning Public procurement for innovation, it is necessary to mention the research and innovation Policy. According to the survey results, three of the five countries (Estonia, Iceland and Malta) have explicitly announced the use of public procurement as a policy tool to stimulate innovation, but none of them has developed local guidelines to implement this policy. Unfortunately, the state law in Iceland on procurement does not stipulate or provide guidance on how these policy goals are to be implemented, institutional directors have considerable leeway in the matter…the Science and Technology Policy Council make few suggestions on how public institutions should act in order to promote public
procurement. On the other hand, there seems to be a rising will among the ministries to use EU guidelines in the matter’.

Prior to the **International Cooperation** plays a key role in strengthening political support for environmental affairs. Through the EEA agreement Iceland has implemented many EU directives on environmental affairs into the legal system and gives legal statues to its international commitments. Iceland participates in multifaceted Nordic collaboration and supervises the implementation of international environmental protection agreements. The Ministry for the Environment participates in the environmental efforts of many multinational organisations, such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the OECD. Emphasis on the environmental affairs of the Northern Hemisphere has grown in recent years, and the Stefánsson Arctic Institute works on issues in this field. The international offices of two projects under the auspices of the Arctic Council, which see to the protection of the biosphere (CAFF) and marine conservation (PAME), are located in Iceland.

The Icelandic government considers **eco-labeling** to be an effective and efficient instrument to facilitate Sustainable consumption and production.

The Icelandic government actively participates in administration of the *Swan* eco-label. What is more, Iceland has been a leading agent in developing a new vision for the *Swan* into the year 2015, a policy that is supposed to guide and advance the label in coming years.

Furthermore, Iceland is taking part in Nordic SWAN (eco-label), Reykjavik is a member of ICLEI. Icelandic government is providing and encouraging GPP policy through the Questionnaires, Strategies, and GPP action plan for 2009-2012 (see “Implementation of GPP”).

In addition, building on the outcomes of the EcoProcura 2009 conference, ICLEI member Reykjavik (Iceland), has become the newest participant of ICLEI's Procura+ Sustainable Procurement Campaign. As the host of EcoProcura 2009, Reykjavik set green public procurement (GPP) as a city priority and has followed through with various practical steps and money-saving initiatives. Reykjavik collaborates closely with the national government and is now using GPP to handle severe budget cuts, having been hit hard by the financial crisis. During the process of centralizing procurement a checklist for procurers was developed.

Furthermore, the reference to the Nordic Svan ecolabel in the technical specifications increased by 100% in the last six months.

An assessment of products and services currently purchased by the city revealed the huge saving potential of buying recycled paper for its offices, reorganising and downsizing its vehicle fleet and using
environmentally-friendly cleaning products.
The latest edition of ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement Update reports on Reykjavik's advances much more. Key recent developments include the launch of the Sustainable Construction and Innovation Network, co-ordinated by ICLEI.


Sources:
http://eng.umhverfisraduneyti.is/legislation/

• Which standards / legislation has to be followed with regard to the material choice in building/interior? Are there any specific requirements available regarding public buildings?
There is the Eu regulations which are in progress of getting though the parliament.

Article 37. **Building regulations.**

(Planning and Building Act, http://www.skipulagsstofnun.is/media/skipulagsmal/Planning-and-Building-Act.PDF)

In consultation with the Planning Agency and the Union of Local Authorities in Iceland, the minister shall issue building regulations applying to the whole country and containing further provisions on the implementation of the provisions of this chapter.

The building regulations shall specify the demands to be made regarding the design and building of structures concerning their appearance and conformity with their immediate surroundings, their economical and utility value, access to them by disabled people, safety, technical execution and maintenance. Requirements shall be stated regarding foundations, construction materials, load-bearing capacity, thermal insulation, vapour barrier and insulation against noise, ventilation, light, installations, hygiene, fire protection, etc. The building regulations shall furthermore contain provisions on the minimum requirements concerning individual parts of buildings and their various types, working environment and health and safety at the workplace, vegetation and the way in which plots are to be finished off. They shall also contain provisions on the siting of containers, camper-trailers, boats, sales kiosks, etc.

The building regulations shall also contain provisions on design documents and the legal authorization of designers, the recognition, rights and obligations of construction site managers and master craftsmen, how building inspection is to be carried out, responsibilities of building officers and fees for building permits, measurements, inspection and certificates provided by building officers and how these fees are to be collected. The building regulations shall contain provisions on how final inspection is to be carried out.

Words and concepts used in the building regulations which require explanation, e.g. referring to the size and construction stages of structures, shall be defined there. The building regulations shall refer to other regulations which affect their implementation and to the valid technical standards and other matters regarding structures. Reference shall also be made to provisions and obligations which accompany Iceland’s membership of international agreements.

A local authority may set local bye-laws containing additional rules over and above those of the building regulations. They shall, i.a., set forth specific requirements made of buildings in connection with flood,
avalanche and earthquake hazards, the conservation of older settled areas and vegetation, fences around plots, the instalment of advertising signs and other matters which depend on local circumstances or points of view. They may also contain provisions concerning the local control of construction matters in the municipality. Where municipalities have formed a regional building committee, they may set bye-laws jointly under this paragraph.

Local building bye-laws shall be sent for the approval of the ministry, and shall be published in Section B of the Law and Ministerial Gazette.

Article 42. **Requirements regarding design and choice of materials.** (Source: Planning and Building Act, http://www.skipulagsstofnun.is/media/skipulagsmal/Planning-and-Building-Act.PDF)

In cases of complicated design, a building officer may demand comments by legally authorized approval designers at the builder’s expense.

Before they may be used for construction, construction materials and pre-fabricated construction units and buildings shall have received certification by an accredited construction testing laboratory stating that they meet the requirements of the building and fire-protection regulations, that they conform to standards and that they are suitable for the working methods used and suit local conditions in Iceland.

A building officer may demand that a manufacturer or importer produce a certificate or a test report from an accredited construction testing laboratory specializing in the relevant field stating that construction materials which are on sale meet the requirements of standards and the building regulations.

In the case of major construction works, a building officer may demand the use of special inspectors at the builder’s expense. He may also demand that independent legally authorized designers or specialists with the appropriate knowledge be entrusted with the inspection of construction work when it involves the use of unusual or new construction techniques.

A building officer may, at the builder’s expense, demand load tests to be carried out on a structure in order to prove its load-bearing capacity and a test of the workings of its installations be made after it has been constructed. If the structure does not pass the tests, the building officer shall give the builder a particular time limit by which to make the necessary improvements.

Alternatively, he may have the deficiencies rectified at the builder’s expense.
A building officer may, after receiving the approval of the local authority, entrust an approval designer or an accredited inspection body with the examination and approval of special drawings. A special fee, equivalent to the cost of the examination, shall be paid for the examination of special drawings. Provisions shall be made in the building regulations on working rules and the collection of fees in this connection.

More information read:

**Article 43. Building permits.**

**Article 49. Legal authorization in specialized fields.**

**Article 61. Authority over planning and building in agreed areas.**

Source: [http://www.skipulagsstofnun.is/media/skipulagsmal/Planning-and-Building-Act.PDF](http://www.skipulagsstofnun.is/media/skipulagsmal/Planning-and-Building-Act.PDF) (in English)

[http://www.althingi.is/lagas/nuna/2010123.html](http://www.althingi.is/lagas/nuna/2010123.html) (in Icelandic)

- **Are there any voluntary standards in your country regarding the material choice in building/interior?**

There are no voluntary standards through the Icelandic regulations. But it is a up building environmental thinking going on in the Icelandic society.

It is called Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). CSR is becoming a basement for most of the companies in the world, Iceland is not an exception. CSR is growing everyday. Entrepreneurs consider not only economical issue but also social and environmental dimensions as well. What means that profit is not the main and the only goal for the business.

- **Which guidelines exist regarding green procurement? Specific requirements for the material choice for building and interior?**

The guidelines that we work with are through the ISO 14000 environmental management. Also form the current regulations and building codes.
Municipalities (e.g. Reykjavikuborg) have Reykjavik procurement policy that includes Checklist for green procurement.

What is more, Web based toolkit [www.vinn.is](http://www.vinn.is) - that disseminates relevant information to stakeholders – is used. The main purpose of this toolkit is to support the implementation of this policy by increasing information and advisory services to procurers, buyers and sellers. For more information read here: [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_ni/nipdfs/NationalReports/iceland/scp.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_ni/nipdfs/NationalReports/iceland/scp.pdf)

European stakeholders are providing a set of guidelines for public authorities and contracting parties to support the introduction and use of Green Public Procurement. The handbook is established by the European Commission services. It explains in concrete terms how environmental considerations can be integrated into public procurement procedure; clarifies the legal possibilities, as introduced and/or clarified by recent public procurement directives ([2004/18/EC](http://europa.eu/environment/gpp/guideline_en.htm) and [2004/17/EC](http://europa.eu/environment/gpp/guideline_en.htm)), of integrating environmental considerations in a tender’s technical specifications, selection and award criteria and contract performance clauses; takes into account the most recent jurisprudence of the Court of Justice in this area; includes concrete examples of environmental tendering by local authorities in Europe; is a strong promotional tool and primarily aimed at contracting authorities at all administrative levels; is of particular use to local authorities, which may lack good legal and environmental advice.

See more: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/guideline_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/guideline_en.htm)

Another very important on going project with guidelines is eco-labeling. The Icelandic government considers eco-labeling to be an effective and efficient instrument to facilitate Sustainable consumption and production.

The Icelandic government actively participates in administration of the Swan eco-label. The Swan ecolabel is jointly owned by the Nordic countries (Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland) and run jointly under the regional cooperative mechanisms. The Swan label is among the strongest co-brands in the Nordic region, widely reckoned by producers and consumers as a reliable brand of sound environmental delivery of a wide range of goods and services. The Icelandic government has strengthened its capacity of the Swan administration, aiming to triple at least the number Swan-labeled 2 Icelandic enterprises. There are further intentions to seek stronger integration between the Swan ecolabeling and GPP, where the aim is to strengthen and advance both instruments.
What is more, Iceland has been a leading agent in developing a new vision for the Swan into the year 2015, a policy that is supposed to guide and advance the label in coming years.

Iceland is further enrolled in the European Union eco-label, the Flower, under the commitments of the European Economic Area agreement between Iceland and the EU. Icelandic enterprises can qualify and adopt the Flower – eco label. These two government run eco-labels, Swan and the Flower, are administrated by the Environmental Agency - www.ust.is -, the Icelandic government environmental body.

There are other sector-specific international eco-labels that have gained momentum in Iceland. The Green flag is an eco-label available for educational institutions; kindergartens, primary and secondary schools and colleges. The number of educational institutions qualifying for the Green flag has been rapidly increasing. The Blue flag is a similar eco-label available for harbors. Both these eco-labels are administrated by the civil society organization Landvernd (The Icelandic Environmental Association). The Green globe eco-label is available for tourist facilities and communities. There has been commendable trial by the municipal local governments in rural communities in the Snæfellsnes peninsula to adopt the Green globe criteria and qualify for the label. This pioneering work can be considered as a role model for other small local governments to qualify for the community eco-label.

Further, some tourist facilities have qualified for the Green globe, especially those providing accommodation.


International Organization for Standardization – Standards 14020 through 14025 provide guidelines for ecolabels for first and third party verification.

The Swan – the official Nordic ecolabel introduced by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Certifies some paper products. It also certifies that durable wood products do not incorporate heavy metals or biocides and are produced from sustainably managed forests. Icelandis a part of this organization and follow the standards set there.
Requirements regarding design and choice of materials. (Source: Planning and Building Act, Article 42. Read here: http://www.skipulagsstofnun.is/media/skipulagsmal/Planning-and-Building-Act.PDF)

- **Which guidelines exist for the material choice for building and interior?**

According to the Icelandic building code, it is not approved to use any material unless it has been tested for either the EU or the Innovation Center Iceland which test all building material.

The main guidelines concerning GPP and construction field are Nordic swan, European Eco-label and the guidelines provided by The Icelandic National Planning Agency (mainly “Planning and Building Act” - http://www.skipulagsstofnun.is/media/skipulagsmal/Planning-and-Building-Act.PDF).

Concerning Nordic Swan, Iceland is one of the active participant of this organization which develops environmental standards endorsed by Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland. The five countries work together through the Nordic Ecolabelling Board. The Swan eco-label is awarded to a wide range of products and is widely accepted in Europe.

The European Eco-label (established in 1992) awards its label in 28 product groups. The environmental criteria are defined to allow up to 30 percent of the products on the market to meet the standard. For more information read: http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_ni/ni_pdf/NationalReports/iceland/scp.pdf

The Icelandic National Planning Agency is a state authority responsible for the administration, monitoring and implementation of the Planning and Building Act (in Icelandic, press the link), the Environmental Impact Assessment Act (EIA) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Act (SEA) in Icelandic. There are advices on planning and building issues, they assist local authorities in preparing spatial plans and to review spatial plans produced by local authorities; an opinion on the proposed project and resulting activities, based on the developer's environmental impact statement (EIS) provided in the guidelines. Furthermore, the Agency regularly organizes conferences, seminars and courses and publishes guidelines and reports.
Level of implementation in the country:

- What evaluations/reports exist about current status in your country with regard to the green procurement? Is it available in English?

Concerning evaluations and reports exist, there is not much information in English available. On the other hand, there is a lot of information in Icelandic. For example:

  - [http://www.ust.is/Frodleikur/ErindiOgGreinar/nr/997](http://www.ust.is/Frodleikur/ErindiOgGreinar/nr/997)
  - [http://www.ust.is/LogOgReglur/Log](http://www.ust.is/LogOgReglur/Log)
  - [http://www.ust.is/oryggi/](http://www.ust.is/oryggi/)

As we have already mentioned that Iceland is an active participant in ICLEI. The latest edition of ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement Update reports on Reykjavik's advances much more. Key recent developments include the launch of the Sustainable Construction and Innovation Network, co-ordinated by ICLEI.


Concerning the annual spend on public procurement, 13-16% of GDP are spending on GPP in Iceland. For comparison with other countries’ expenditures, see the tables below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>10.8% (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>13-16% est.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>10.3% (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>16-18% est.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>12.98% (2007)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: ERAPRISM Survey 2010*
In the report of ‘**Innovative public procurement**.’ (May 2006). Icelandic ministries and other institutions are urged to tailor their procurement practices toward innovation, research and development. In the report it is suggested that government officials use the European Union Innovation Policy as guidance.

The current praxis include **International Conventions**, and projects such as ‘**Iceland’s National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2002- 2020**’; ‘**Icelandic National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan**’ or **Education, training and public awareness**’s policy.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total value of procurements</strong></td>
<td>23 229 million EK (=1.485 billion EUR)</td>
<td>188 billion ISK (=728 million EUR)</td>
<td>993.9 million LVL (=1.4 billion EUR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National government procurements</strong></td>
<td>29.2% 6773 million EK (=4323 million EUR)</td>
<td>49.2% 92.5 billion ISK (=358 million EUR)</td>
<td>51.9% 515.4 million LVL (=726 million EUR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local government procurements</strong></td>
<td>10.6% 2470 million EK (=158 million EUR)</td>
<td>33.9% 63.8 billion ISK (=247 million EUR)</td>
<td>48.1% 478.5 million LVL (=674 million EUR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other public procurements</strong></td>
<td>16.9% 31.7 billion ISK (=123 million EUR) for Social Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is more, plenty of strategies are implemented and planned to accomplish. One of the most well known is ‘Welfare for the Future: Iceland’s National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2002-2020 (2002)’. It defines some of the main goals of the Government in this respect, along with indicators that are intended to help monitoring progress. In the report it says that the strategy is intended to create a frame for the discussion that needs to take place regarding Icelanders’ vision of sustainable development at the beginning of the 21st century. It defines some of the main goals of the government in this respect, along with indicators that are intended to help monitoring progress. It was decided that the strategy should be under constant development and evaluated in indicator based follow-up reports and discussed at future environmental assemblies.

Another good example is the strategy ‘Welfare for the Future, Sustainable Development in Iceland, Priorities 2010-2013’. This report was published in November 2010 and only available in Icelandic. It is the second update of the Icelandic Government’s 2002 strategy for sustainable development. The report is only available in Icelandic (http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Velferd-til-framtidar-2010-2013.pdf).

Icelandic National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was prepared by the Ministry for the Environment, and was adopted by the Government of Iceland in 2008. The strategy focuses on few priority areas for conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components. Scientific research and knowledge is considered to be the basic foundation of conservation and strengthening research and monitoring is emphasized. The strategy contains actions to strengthen the knowledge base for conservation of biological diversity. The main areas of actions include species oriented conservation measures, protected areas, restoration of degraded habitats, actions oriented towards Invasive Alien Species, genetic resources, genetically modified organisms and information, education and public relations regarding biological diversity. An Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy formulated by the Ministry for the Environment, in cooperation with representatives from the relevant ministries, has been adopted by the Government. Part of the implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity in Icelandic is also incorporated into the Nature Conservation Strategy for the period 2009-2013 which
contains proposals for new protected areas for conservation of biological diversity. *The reports are only available in Icelandic* (*stefnumörkunar um liffræöilega fjölbreytni*).

Generally training is provided to procurement officers within departments through training programs, with the collaboration of the central procurement body. In Iceland, training is held by the STC in the form of several short-term training courses throughout the year. Iceland is one of few participants which reported about ‘No formal university training in procurement’ in universities with short specialization courses.

Naturally the balance of local vis-à-vis international suppliers depends on the specific procurement and the type of goods and services being procured. In our country some departments noted that the balance varies strongly between products and services. While the ratio is up to 90% foreign suppliers and 10% domestic for products (due to low domestic supply), for services the opposite is true. In relation to the latter, some respondents noted that public procurement in Iceland has had a tendency to favour domestic suppliers over foreign ones.

However, within individual countries attitudes tend to vary in relation to the type and complexity of products and services being procured. For instance in Iceland large departments and departments procuring complex products such as energy solutions or in the area of health, do not perceive a significant shortage of capabilities.

**Concerning the implementation of GPP in Iceland, it is necessary to mention that the level of Public Awareness** has increased and it can be evaluated by more environmentally sound behavior towards, waste, recycling, protection of nature and sustainable use of natural resources. Environmental education in schools has increased in the past decade. The University of Iceland now offers a Master's degree in environmental studies, where climate change is an integral subject. Many upper secondary schools offer courses in the same, or place special emphasis on environmental issues in their curriculum. Studies of environmental issues in primary schools are included in many subjects, especially natural sciences. As renewable energy is used for both space heating and electrical production, climate-related public information and awareness-raising campaigns focus on transportation and on encouraging alternative transport modes to the private car.

The municipal authorities in Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, that encompasses around 1/3 of the national population, have actively been running the awareness raising program – Green steps – that encourages the inhabitants to seek more sustainable practices, including public transport, recycling and waste treatment.
Private car use is the dominant mode of transport. Efforts have been made to encourage alternative ways of transport, such as walking and bicycling, for example in specific campaigns where workplaces can compete in the number of employees bicycling for work.

More companies are getting eco certificates like the Swan which is an official Nordic eco certificate. The Swan demonstrates that a product or service is a good environmental choice.

Everything from washing-up liquid to furniture and hotels can carry the Swan label, so consumers have the opportunity to choose environmental more friendly products without compromising the quality. The Swan organisation checks on regular basis that products fulfill the Swan criteria, using methods such as samples from independent laboratories, certificates and control visits and in this way assures independent surveillance.

To become a Swan certified product or service is a long process, in which is necessary to adapt the business to a comprehensive set of green rules and requirements, which are not static but change with time in order to comply with the newest legislative and new green trends.

- **Which authorities are responsible for the green procurement of your country?**

  The main authorities are:
  
  - Umhverfisstofnun [www.ust.is](http://www.ust.is)
  - Umhverfisráðuneytið [www.umhverfisraduneyti.is](http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is)
  - Nýsköpunar miðstöð [http://www.nmi.is/english/](http://www.nmi.is/english/)

  The main **success factor** implementing Public procurements was **strengthening political support** for sustainable development. Iceland has strived for integrating as far as possible sustainable development into regular political planning processes, adopting measures and actions at the highest political level.

  Prior to the **International Cooperation** plays a key role in strengthening political support for environmental affairs. Through the EEA agreement Iceland has implemented many EU directives on environmental affairs into the legal system and gives legal statues to its international commitments.
Icelandic Government Procurement Policy requires state institutions to appoint (or hire) a special procurement person within the individual institutions that handles and oversees all procurement. Iceland makes extensive use of framework contracts as a form of coordination in procurement. In order to get clearer vision, we offer additional information about the authorities responsible for green procurement.

GPP in Iceland mostly is set by European Procurement Directives. In Iceland, ministries, state institutions and municipalities have the authority to purchase products up to a certain value without any intervention from the State Trading Centre. However purchases that exceed these limits must be contracted out via the State Trading Centre. But let’s start from the beginning.

*Improving procurement approaches is also a focus among respondent ministries.*

First is to mention the **Ministry for the Environment** was established in 1990 and is the youngest ministry in the Icelandic Administration. Since then Environmental legislation has been re-examined with an eye to its consistency with the guideline of sustainable development. The ministry's founding created the requisites for the government for formulating and enforcing an integrated policy for environmental affairs. The ministry supervises the affairs pertaining to nature in Iceland, conservation and outdoor recreation, the protection of animals, the hunting of wild animals, pollution prevention, hygiene and food, planning and settlement affairs, fire prevention, avalanches, surveying and cartography, environmental studies and surveillance, training and information activities in the field of environmental affairs.

The **Environment Agency** was established in 1992 and it operates under the direction of the Ministry for the Environment. It's role is to promote the protection as well as sustainable use of Iceland’s natural resources, as well as public welfare by helping to ensure a healthy environment, and safe consumer goods.

Many other organizations operate under the direction of the Ministry for the Environment, each in its own field.; Soil Conservation Service of Iceland, The Planning Agency, the Icelandic Geodetic Survey, the Icelandic Fire Authority, the Nature Conservation Agency, the Icelandic Museum of Natural History, the Directorate of Freshwater Fisheries, the Environment and Food Agency of Iceland, The Icelandic Museum of Natural History, the Icelandic Meteorological Office, the Icelandic Geodetic Survey, the Lake Mývatn Research Station and the Directorate of Freshwater Fisheries.

http://eng.umhverfisraduneyti.is/ministry/tasks/

In March 2009 the **Minister of finance** and the minister of environment signed an agreement on eco-friendly public procurement. The agreement will be used as policy guidance for all public procurement in Iceland.
The Soil Conservation Service of Iceland (SCS) was founded in 1907. It is a governmental agency under the Ministry for the Environment. The main tasks of the SCS include combating desertification, sand encroachment and other soil erosion, promotion of sustainable land use and reclamation and restoration of degraded land. The work is on different levels, from policy making and research, to extension services and management of large- and small-scale reclamation projects. (See more in http://www.land.is)

The Icelandic Forest Service is an institution that works with and for the government, the public and other interested parties, on the subjects of research, development, consultation and distribution of knowledge within forestry. The institution is also Iceland's representative in cooperation with other countries. http://www.skogur.is/english

The National Energy Authority (NEA) is a government agency under the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism. Its main responsibilities have been to advise the Government of Iceland on energy issues and related topics, promote energy research and administrate development and exploitation of the energy resources.

The Marine Research Institute (MRI), established in 1965, is a government institute under the auspices research and provides the Ministry with scientific advice based on its research on marine resources and the environment. The three main areas of activities of the MRI are to conduct research on the marine environment around Iceland and its living resources, provide advice to the government on catch levels and conservation measures and to inform the government, the fishery sector and the public about the sea and its living resources. One of the main tasks of MRI is to advice the government on TAC’s and sustainable fishing strategies. The advice is based on stock assessment, projection of catches and stock sizes and long term management scheme.

In addition, schools and other educational institutions are included in the process of GPP awareness. Environmental education in schools has increased in the past decade. The University of Iceland now offers a Master's degree in environmental studies, where climate change is an integral subject. Many upper secondary schools offer courses in the same, or place special emphasis on environmental issues in their curriculum. Studies of environmental issues in primary schools are included in many subjects, especially natural sciences. As renewable energy is used for both space heating and electrical production, climate-related public information and awareness-raising campaigns focus on transportation and on encouraging alternative transport modes to the private car.
Talking about the authorities that are responsible for green procurement in Iceland, it is necessary to mention that the **State Trading Centre (STC)** provides advice, information and assistance, but also coordinates procurement through framework agreement, and handles some of the large purchasing itself. One of the main of procurement policy is to enhance research and development. STC has reviewed its tender descriptions and tendering process, and found that these are now much simpler (more user-friendly) and clearer than before State Law on Procurement of Iceland.

While another authority - **The Science & Technology Policy Council** encouraged to promote innovation in Iceland by steering public procurement into that direction.

STC and the **Federation of Icelandic Industries** (FII) deal with the matter of ‘Innovative public procurement’. The **Icelandic National Planning Agency** is a state authority responsible for the administration, monitoring and implementation of the Planning and Building Act (in Icelandic), the Environmental Impact Assessment Act (EIA) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Act (SEA) in Icelandic.