



Chamber of Eco Commerce (CEC)

Ecologically Sustainable Procurement (ESP) Project

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Ecologically Sustainable Procurement

An innovation can be supported by the government in several ways. Government institutes can function as early adaptors, the so called launching customers. There are several programs to facilitate this functioning with eco-innovations. This way government institutions can set an example and thereby create a market (launching customer). Innovation and environment together demand for a sustainable marriage between policymakers. Taxations and substitutions can however also be a barrier for eco-innovations. These policy instruments are often based upon existing knowledge about resources and methods. This forces innovators to innovate within an existing framework (box) of resources and production methods.

By stepping back and facilitating an innovative platform which can be supported but less regulated, the government can support eco-innovations with less involvement. The situation in the United States is a good example where government let commercial organizations be the driver of innovations by simply giving them space to innovate.

Government institutes can act as a partner or facilitator in this up scaling phase, the so called Public Private Partnerships (PPP). Research has shown us that a consistent policy is expected to stimulate this acceptance. Entrepreneurs and organizations ask for a consistent governmental policy to ensure them a calm and consistent entrepreneurial climate.

ESP Catalog - A Tool for Ecologically Sustainable Procurement

CEC develops practical online solutions, to improve communication between individuals and organizations in the area of sustainable procurement. The most recent example, the online tool entitled, Ecologically Sustainable Procurement (ESP) Catalog, has been developed to help private and public purchasers to choose eco innovative products and services. CEC provides a comprehensive quality control and is responsible for the data integrity, the product responsibility is shared by CEC stakeholders, local authorities, and government agencies.

The ESP Catalog offers ready to use material, such as suggestions for mandatory requirements, award criteria, and contract clauses. For each criterion, suggestions are made as to what kind of evidence the purchaser can ask for, either during the procurement process or later under the contract period. The ESP Catalog provides public and private purchasers with sets of environmental criteria for product groups, from light bulbs to batteries to medical devices. The objective of the criteria is to make it easy for purchasers to make use of environmental requirements. Another objective is to inform suppliers and contractors about the kind of environmental requirements which might be brought up in procurement processes.

The criteria is constantly tracked and reviewed to ensure that the latest changes in legislation are incorporated. The procurement criteria is developed through an extensive quality

assurance process where important parties from both private and public sector have participated. All the criteria is indeed negotiated within CEC working group that enables a consensus dialogue between various stakeholders – from industry, organizations, public purchasers, experts from Governmental agencies, scientists etc. Then a decision committee reviews the conclusions. The criteria is afterwards available on CEC portal for any purchaser.

The basis for the development of criteria is the national environmental quality targets. Aspects that are not linked to environmental targets can be covered if they are clearly associated with the environmental performance of the goods/service/contract concerned. Other important aspects for which no link exists, such as quality, safety and ergonomics, are not covered by the work on criteria.

Lack of knowledge is a main challenge in environmental public procurement. CEC's online tools are customized and developed to meet specific business and training needs of procurement managers at all municipalities, counties, and state authorities. The ESP Catalog does not compete with existing sustainable procurement tools but rather complements them. CEC will continue to focus on developing criteria for eco innovative products and services not covered by most organizations.

Moreover, actions to mobilize public purchasers are included in the ESP Catalog project, with educational courses to explain eco innovation and providing procurers easy access to highly qualified knowledge, products and services. Finally, public procurers are invited to join ESP Hub to share tips or news regarding environmental procurement in their country, as well as in other countries across the developed and the developing world.

For more information:

Sustainable Procurement:

<http://www.chamberofecocommerce.com/partnerprojects/sustainableprocurement.html>

Greening the Supply Chain - GSA:

<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/171669>

Sustainable Acquisition - GSA:

<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/187317>

Green Purchasing Plan - GSA:

<http://blog.ceileadership.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/GSA-Green-Purchasing-Plan.pdf>