



# The Courts Service's Green Procurement Policy



An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna  
Courts Service

## Mission Statement

To manage the Courts, support the judiciary and provide a high quality and professional service to all users of the Courts.

## Introduction

This policy complements the Courts Service's Procurement Policy and Annual Procurement Plan and details the Courts Services' commitment to Green Public Procurement, in line with the Governments Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024 – 2027, the National Climate Action Plan and supporting the annual Courts Service Climate Action Roadmap.



## What is Green Public Procurement (GPP)

Green Public Procurement (GPP) is a process where public authorities seek to source goods, services or works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle when compared to goods, services and works with the same primary function that would ordinarily be procured.

The Government in its Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan acknowledges we need to move to a more sustainable production and consumption model across society by changing how we consume materials and resources. We need to look at how we design the products that we use; and how we extend the productive life of all goods and products in our society and economy. This Circular Economy approach where we keep resources in circulation as long as possible and reduce waste, together with responsible Green Public Procurement will play a key role in helping Ireland become more resource efficient society and economy.



## National Climate Action Plan

The National Climate Action Plan is the Government's plan to ensure Ireland reaches its 2030 emissions targets, with the long-term goal of zero net emissions by 2050. The Climate Action Plan includes a Climate Action Mandate with specific actions for every public body to engage fully in addressing the climate emergency.

Section 3 within the Climate Action Mandate is dedicated to Our Ways of Working and sets out the following requirement:

*3.4 Green Public Procurement: Implement Green Public Procurement, using the EPA Green Public Procurement Guidance and Criteria/ Office of Government Procurement's online Green Public Procurement Criteria.*

Circular 20/2019: Promoting the use of Environmental and Social Considerations in Public Procurement<sup>1</sup> and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) third report on Green Public Procurement (GPP) provide green criteria that can be incorporated into public procurements.

The general guidance is accompanied by GPP criteria for eleven (11) sectors:

- Road transport vehicles and services
- Indoor and outdoor lighting
- ICT products and services
- Heating equipment (including cogeneration, trigeneration and heat pumps)
- Food and catering services
- Energy-related products (white goods / appliances, electronic displays)
- Cleaning products and services
- Paper products and printing services
- Building design, construction, and management (due to be updated in 2024/2025)
- Textile products and services
- Furniture and related services (new criteria set published in 2024)

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<sup>1</sup> Circular 20/2019 was due to be updated in 2024 but to date this hasn't happened

## The Courts Service's commitment to Sustainability

This Green Procurement Policy is another step in the Courts Service's commitment to environmental, economic, and socially sustainable procurement. Introducing environmental and social criteria to the procurement process should be about integrating these issues into routine business practice and should be mainstreamed in the same way as value-for-money considerations.

In looking at procurement, The Courts Service should apply the principles of waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling, and disposal –



## Promoting Green and Sustainable Procurement Practices

With this Green Procurement Policy, The Courts Service is aspiring to:

- Only procure goods and services that reflect best practice standards for environmental, economic and/or social sustainability.
- Promote sustainability within all our contract and tendering documentation.
- Provide awareness training for staff on Green and Sustainable Procurement Practices.
- Never buy products that are harmful to the environment if a less damaging alternative is available.
- Try to specify goods and materials that cause minimum damage to the environment including the impact of their manufacture, distribution, use and disposal.
- Consider the 'whole life' cost of products when tendering and selecting suppliers – energy efficient products may have an increased initial outlay, but this can often be offset over time by reduced operational costs.
- Regularly review our purchasing requirements with the intention of reducing our environmental impact and increasing our positive impacts on society and the local economy.
- Draw this Green Procurement Policy to the attention of key suppliers and communicate it as widely as is practicable to the potential supply market
- Work with our suppliers to encourage them to reduce the environmental impacts of their products and processes, and to develop environmentally friendly products where possible.

The Courts Service Public Procurement templates have been updated and now include some standard language regarding the Courts Service commitment to Green Public Procurement. In addition to this, updates have been provided through the Courts Service Procurement Network on the changes in public procurement relevant to this topic and the relevant guidance documents and links have been circulated also, to help with the development of relevant Green Criteria for assessment in each public procurement.

OGP contracts and frameworks also include Green Criteria so goods and services drawn those contracts will meet the Courts Service commitment to Green Public Procurement.



## Next Steps for the Court Service

The next steps in this process is to ensure that the Courts Service continues to promote green and sustainable procurement practices and implement the actions in the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications' 'Buying Greener: Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027', published April 2024.

In order to do this, there will be a need to:

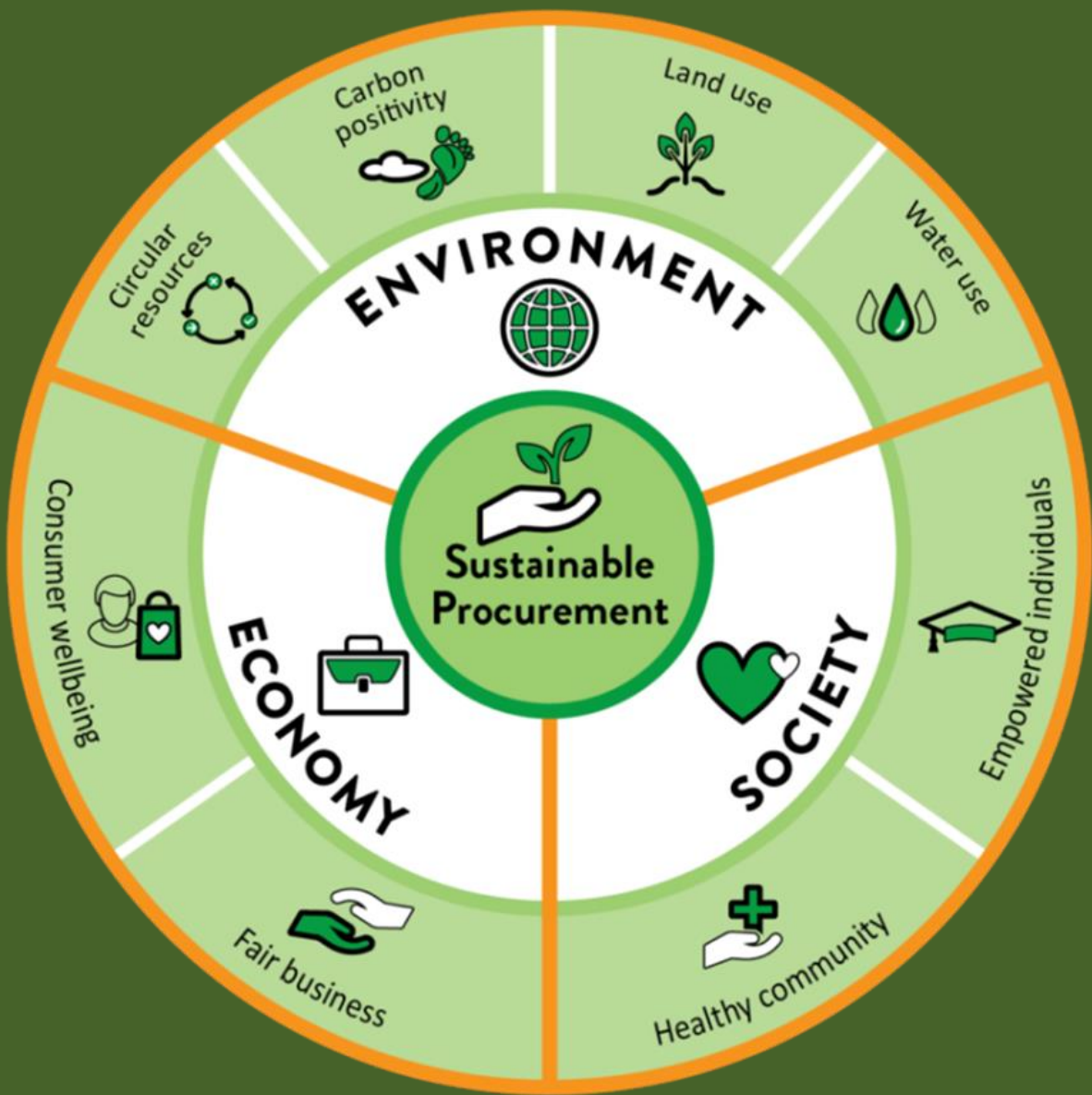
1. Incorporate GPP into procurement processes, including the Corporate Procurement Plan.
2. Continue to update existing documents and procedures so that GPP is integrated.
3. Organise GPP training for relevant staff and ensure awareness of updated documents and procedures, including how to incorporate green procurement criteria appropriately.
4. Put in place systems to monitor and report on GPP.
5. Start to include GPP data in our Annual Report.
6. Implement relevant actions.

## Conclusion

Implementing a green procurement policy is a crucial step towards fostering sustainability and reducing our environmental impact. The Courts Service is committed to prioritising eco-friendly products and services and this policy empowers the organisation to lead by example, demonstrating a commitment to social responsibility and environmental stewardship.

It is essential that we continuously monitor and evaluate our procurement practices, ensuring they align with our sustainability goals.





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