

Background Note

GPP has been defined as the purchase of goods and services with reduced environmental impacts. When compared to traditional goods and services with the same primary function these would have lower embedded environmental impacts. Thus, GPP is a policy instrument that aims to influence Government’s consumption and production patterns by setting minimum standards across various sectors.

The recently launched second NAP, aims at strengthening what has already been achieved, whilst providing further policy impetus to enhance the greener public procurement function. The second NAP is aiming to progressively increase the share of government’s procurement in greener products to 90% by 2025. It is set to be more ambitious in terms of targets, but still adopts a realistic and incremental approach. In fact, the second NAP sets out GPP targets for sixteen product and service groups. A mandatory status will be given to the procurement of seven additional criteria, including street lighting and traffic signals, transport, office building design, construction and management, road design, construction and maintenance, sanitary tapware, toilets and urinals and hospitality and catering services. The table below reflects the targets being set out for the next seven years.

Mandatory Product Groups	National Targets						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Copying and graphic paper	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Gardening products and services	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Computers and Monitors	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Imaging equipment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Textiles	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Cleaning products and services	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Street lighting and traffic signals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Transport	50%	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Office building design, construction and management	50%	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%	

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Road design, construction and maintenance	50%	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sanitary tapware	10%	20%	30%	50%	60%	80%	100%
Toilets and urinals	10%	20%	30%	50%	60%	80%	100%
Hospitality and Catering Services	10%	20%	30%	50%	60%	80%	100%
Non- Mandatory Product Groups	National Targets						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Furniture	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
Vending Machines	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
Electric & electronic equipment used in health care	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%

Table 1- National Targets for Mandatory and Non-Mandatory Categories

The ambitious approach being adopted for the second NAP goes beyond setting higher targets for the forthcoming years, giving a mandatory status to additional product and service groups and introducing GPP criteria for new sectors. . In fact, it merits increased importance to the promotion of recycling of construction and demolition waste in the construction and road construction industries, as well as the reduction of single use plastics in the hospitality and catering services provided to government. Furthermore it puts forward nine initiatives in order to adopt a more comprehensive approach to public procurement. These include:

1. Widening the scope of Procurement Instruments
2. Greening Award Criteria in Tenders
3. Pooling of green advisory experts
4. Training and constant refresher courses
5. Incentivising local councils through award schemes
6. Greening EU funding
7. Environmental Credentials
8. Post-procurement auditing
9. Enhancing the role of the Ministry GPP Coordinator

To further add to this consultation exercise, DECC are launching the following questions:

Q1. Is the market aware of the sector-specific requirements emanating from GPP?

Q2. Are there specific challenges which economic operators can foresee in the implementation of new GPP criteria?

Q3. Are there any other tools which could enable economic operators to transition more swiftly into adopting these GPP criteria?

Q4. Would private enterprises consider the inclusion of GPP criteria in their own procurement systems?