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ICLEI



# An Insight into Procurement at ICLEI

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ustainable and innovation procurement bring environmental, societal and economic benefits at the local level, and can help drive the market towards sustainability.

By taking smart decisions when purchasing products and services, governments achieve real value for the public purse. Considering the broader impacts of public procurement and opting for products and services with environmental and social benefits can also help public authorities to invest in the future of their cities and can actively encourage local innovation and entrepreneurship. Sustainable procurement is a valuable tool in achieving significant greenhouse gas emissions, promoting fair employment practices and ethical sourcing, boosting supply chain competitiveness, increasing financial efficiency, and creating new jobs. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability has been working in the field of sustainable and

innovative procurement for 20 years and in this time we have seen significant changes in procurement practices. Over the last two decades, through its activities on sustainable procurement, ICLEI has been involved in over 150 projects; organised more than 100 conferences, seminars and workshops; trained over 2,000 people; supported 300 cities in more than 50 countries, and saved at least 1 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Behind each of these figures is a broad coalition of experts, procurers and policy makers, each doing their bit to secure a more socially and environmentally secure future. In our day to day work with cities and towns, we regularly come across inspirational stories from procurers who are pushing the envelope and making a real difference in their local area. Their stories are as varied as the sectors they work in. Each local authority has its own political priorities, budgetary complexities and level of expertise. A UK University, for example, has recently launched a tender for new vending machines to be

installed in University buildings throughout their city. The University wanted to investigate the options for decreasing the carbon footprint of the machines they used to publicly demonstrate their commitment to environmental sustainability. As carbon reduction is new for the vending services market, University staff took the opportunity to engage with the market early using a procedure known as forward commitment procurement, in order to inform suppliers of their requirements and find out what options were available on the market. The final contract is due to be awarded later this year, with a number of low carbon options identified in the market engagement process.

Sometimes a small change in a very big contract can have a significant environmental impact, as in Barcelona where, with just a 15% increase in the proportion of electricity being purchased from renewable sources, one centralised contract for electricity saved the equivalent of more than 66,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Smaller purchases are just as significant. When the German Public Purchasing Authority Bescha brought a new dishwasher for their onsite canteen

# The Facts



ICLEI was conceived in 1989 when local government leaders met with a leading atmospheric scientist to discuss the depletion of the ozone layer. They pledged to establish local laws to phase out ozone-depleting chemicals and imagined an organization that could coordinate local government responses to global environmental problems.



ICLEI was then founded in 1990 by 200 local governments from 43 countries who convened for the first World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Operations began in 1991 at the World Secretariat in Toronto, Canada, and the European Secretariat in Freiburg, Germany. The World Secretariat has since moved to Bonn, Germany.



Their first global programs promoted participatory governance and local sustainable development planning. The Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign was the first and largest program in the world designed to support cities in climate action planning using a five-milestone process that reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality and enhanced urban liveability and sustainability.



ICLEI's programs and campaigns look beyond mere environmental aspects and embrace wider sustainability issues. In 2003, the ICLEI Council acknowledged this by formally broadening our mandate and adopting the name ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.

in 2014, the new machine was twice as energy efficient as its predecessor and halved its water consumption.

If this information is going to be shared and built upon, it is important for procurers to be able to get together and share their experiences with their peers in a frank and open environment. This is where ICLEI comes in. We believe that bringing people together to explain their successes and discuss their future plans is absolutely vital. At the heart of much of ICLEI's work is Procura+, a network of European public authorities and regions that connect exchange and act on sustainable and innovation procurement. The Procura+ Network has over 40 participants and exchanges regularly with over 500 further public authorities, experts and other stakeholders.

Their combined knowledge and experience allows participants to provide advice, support and guidance to any public authority that wants to implement sustainable and innovation procurement. Annual Procura+ Seminars provide an opportunity for face-to-face exchange on sustainable procurement. Participants include purchasers from all levels of governments, suppliers, policy-makers and multipliers. The next event

takes place in Rome on 13 and 14 October. Procurers also stay connected through Procura+ webinars and regular news updates. Sharing success stories is a key method for ensuring continued political support. For this reason, the Procura+ Awards have been launched to showcase sustainable and innovation procurement achievements on the international stage. The first Awards were launched in May and applications are still open for public authorities working on sustainable and/or innovative procurements.

All the work of ICLEI and its networks is brought together by the SP Platform ([www.sustainable-procurement.org](http://www.sustainable-procurement.org)). Anyone can access this online hub for resources, case studies, news and events on sustainable procurement. In addition, the Procurement Forum ([www.procurementforum.eu](http://www.procurementforum.eu)) offers an online space for discussion, idea sharing and collaboration. As part of this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to acknowledge all the work that has already been done by ICLEI and all affiliated cities and organisations, ICLEI has launched the #SPPecialists campaign via its social media. All those involved in sustainable and innovation procurement activities are welcomed to make public their commitment by using this hashtag.

