

City of Barcelona's +Sustainable City Council Programme

Programme includes SPP commitments and criteria



Image: pixabay.com

Procura+ Participant:	City of Barcelona
Policy/approach:	+Sustainable City Council programme (+SCC programme) Launched: 2006
Targets/aims:	<p>Reduce the institution's environmental and social impact.</p> <p>Promote a sustainable economy and production system, using the administration's potential as a responsible consumer.</p> <p>Bring coherence to the City Council's sustainability policy and encourage change by its example.</p>

SUMMARY

- Barcelona City Council has been implementing SPP for almost two decades, and in 2006 it launched the +SCC programme which introduced firm purchasing commitments, which are applicable to all council departments.
- The creation of the +SCC programme involved intensive participation, and staff from across the organisation were involved in defining future common procurement objectives and actions.
- Its implementation has been supported through an extensive communication strategy and the definition of compulsory criteria for 12 priority areas.

Background

Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia and the second largest city in Spain, with 1.7 million living in the city and 4.7 million in the wider urban region. [Barcelona City Council](#) manages around 2000 buildings and has around 12,000 employees working across a range of services, each managing its own decentralised budget.

The City has been increasing its focus on sustainability for almost two decades, starting with a comprehensive consultation over the city's [Agenda 21](#) process, leading to the creation of a [Citizen Commitment to Sustainability](#) (first published 2002 and then renewed in 2012), which provides a sustainability roadmap for the city.

The City Council has also invested specific focus to the role of procurement in supporting progress towards environmental and social ambitions, and developed the [+Sustainable City Council](#) (+SCC) programme, which sets out firm commitments for purchasing applicable to all council departments.

Development of the approach

Barcelona first focused on the specific role of procurement back in 2001 via the Green Office Programme, which concentrated on the acquisition of sustainable office goods (see [Green Office Guide](#)). The focus of this programme, however, began to broaden around 2006 in recognition that all goods, services and works procured by the city council can contribute to the social, ethical and environmental goals of the City, launching in 2006 the [+SCC Programme](#).

In 2010 the Programme's [strategic goals](#) were defined by consensus through a participatory process, which lasted one year and involved over 300 staff ([the + Sustainable City Council Convention](#)). This process evaluated past performance and defined common future objectives and actions to achieve these. The action areas range from the procurement of products and services to urban development, construction and refurbishment of buildings and greening public events.

The change towards a + Sustainable City Council is bolstered by successive internal rules: the Government Measure on the greening of municipal services (2001), the Government Measure on the greening of municipal contracts (2006) to ensure the overall incorporation of environmental criteria in contracts, and two Government Measures on responsible procurement (2008 and 2013) defining how to include environmental and social aspects in public contracts.

In 2014 a further participatory process which involved more than 200 of the main procurement and sustainability stakeholders led to the agreement of further compulsory criteria for all municipal contracting bodies in 12 high priority procurement categories (electricity, computer equipment, cleaning and selective waste collection in buildings, events, food services, paper, communication elements, textile products, timber, office furniture, public works projects and vehicles). These were set out as regulations by the 2015 [Technical Instructions for the Application of Sustainability Criteria](#), and include, among other criteria:

- The purchase of work uniforms must respect the Conventions of the [International Labour Organisation](#) (ILO) and restrict the presence of chemicals (in accordance with [OekoTex](#));
- Wood must come from certified sustainable sources;

- 100% of supplied electricity should be derived from renewable energy sources or high-efficiency co-generation;
- All school catering services should include organic food;
- All computers should comply with the [Energy Star](#) standard as a minimum, and should respect the conventions of the ILO;
- 100% recycled paper;
- Priority for acquiring electric vehicles;
- Public buildings and public spaces should have the highest levels of energy, water and environmental self-sufficiency;
- Public events should be organised according to a greening plan;
- Communication products should include eco-publishing criteria and more sustainable materials and practices;
- Office furniture should be produced using recycled or sustainable raw materials, free of toxic substances, durable etc.;
- Selective waste collection and the use of green cleaning products and other materials.

The Mayors Decree on sustainable public procurement (2017) makes the Technical Instructions for the Application of Sustainability criteria compulsory for all contracts, and defines additional instruments to guarantee successful implementation of environmental, social and innovation criteria in contracts, such as the establishment of an annual Plan for sustainable public procurement and the development of a monitoring system.

Implementation of the approach

Implementation is focused on products and services identified by the European Commission as a priority in order to implement GPP ([COM/2008/400](#)), but also to other main contracts (in terms of budget) such as street cleaning or public lighting maintenance.

In order to support the implementation of environmental criteria, technical support is offered by the +SCC programme to all the departments and divisions of the organisation.

Communication channels are also kept open via several internal working groups, which meet regularly to discuss specific topics. Occasionally other groups are also created to consider priority issues, for example, innovation in contracting methods.

Broader awareness raising campaigns also seek to keep staff informed. A regular e-newsletter is prepared, a +SCC programme website was created and is kept updated, and training and targeted information campaigns are implemented.

Finally, +SCC programme is an active participant in wider networks engaged in the sharing of good practice, such as the [Procura+](#) network and local initiatives such as the [Xarxa de Pobles i Ciutats cap a la Sostenibilitat](#) (Network of Cities and Towns for Sustainability).

Results

The +SCC programme is working with the Procurement Coordination Department in order to include the monitoring of sustainable procurement in the automatic procurement processing system. This will be in place in the near future.

Individual monitoring of different products, however, provides some snapshots of results to date:

- Approximately 77% of all wood purchases made (from 2004 to 2016) were of wood certified by the [Forest Stewardship Council](#) (FSC) or the [Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification](#) (PEFC); this number increased to 79% of certified wood in 2016.
- The inclusion of environmental criteria in the street cleaning and waste collection contract has reduced the environmental impact of vehicles: 35% of the fleet now runs on biodiesel, 25% on gas and 30% are electric or hybrid vehicles.
- 74% of paper consumption in 2014 was recycled, this number increased to 86% in 2016. However, several district and departmental administrations are using over 90% or even 100% recycled paper.
- By establishing a framework agreement in 2013 for the supply of electricity to all of the Council's buildings, installations and associated organisations, including public lighting, Barcelona will save 37,583 metric tonnes of CO₂ annually through its purchase of 100% electricity from renewable sources and/or high-efficiency co-generation with a guarantee of origin certificate. More information is available [here](#).
- 35% of the 96 vehicles of the City Councils fleet purchased in 2016 (vans, cars and motorcycles) are powered by low impact technologies (electric, hybrid or gas), and the Police service has started tendering for 145 hybrid police vehicles.

Lessons learned

The +SCC programme owes its success to the participation and co-responsibility of all stakeholders involved. Some departments and divisions are now even developing further procurement guidelines, which follow the same structure as the Technical Instructions mentioned above but for products and services which were not initially prioritised, such as the design and production of exhibitions, or the acquisition of office supplies.

The definition of a common regulatory framework for all municipal contracting authorities has contributed greatly to mainstreaming responsible procurement in the City Council. Compliance with one strategic regulation leads to an increased interest in many of the +SCC tools, services and initiatives.

The continuous work and effort carried out over the past 15 years in greening the administration is now bearing results. The change in the way of working from within the council - from the +SCC programme office continually chasing staff with requests, to staff contacting the programme office directly - is a clear sign of the general change in the awareness and internalisation of sustainability within the organisation.

These results would not have been possible without the continuous and close work with suppliers. Innovative solutions and initiatives (such as pre-procurement market engagement activities, application of new concepts and new tools for intelligent management of the City's resources, pilots etc.) are fundamental to achieve sustainability goals and to use the procurement process to also drive sustainable innovation.



PROCURA+
European Sustainable
Procurement Network

CONTACT

Mar Campanero i Sala

+Sustainable City Council Programme

mcampanero@bcn.cat

Procura+ Participant Page - www.procuraplus.org/public-authorities/barcelona-city-council/

+SCC Website - www.ajsosteniblebcn.cat

About Procura+

Initiated and co-ordinated by ICLEI, Procura+ is a network of European public authorities and regions that connect, exchange and act on sustainable and innovation procurement.

Connect.



We are a network of European public authorities that connect, exchange and act on sustainable and innovation procurement.

Exchange.



Our combined knowledge and experience allows us to provide advice, support and publicity to any public authority that wants to implement sustainable and innovation procurement.

Act.



The Procura+ Network joins forces to champion sustainable and innovation procurement at the European level.

www.procuraplus.org



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