Local Government Climate Roadmap

London, United Kingdom
Responsible Procurement for a Green London

The Greater London Authority (GLA) Group is a group of organisations delivering regional government in the Greater London area, including Transport for London (TfL), the London Development Agency (LDA), the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) and the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA)/Service (MPS). The GLA buys a substantial amount of diverse goods and services for London citizens, spending approximately 3 billion pounds a year on procurement and trading with over 30,000 suppliers. The GLA are using their significant purchasing power as a tool to deliver long term benefits to London.

Better value for money while improving quality of life
To make this vision come true, a delivery plan of action was set out in 2008, categorising responsible procurement in three themes: our people, our businesses and our city. These themes are delivered through a number of support programmes and initiatives such as the Buildings Energy Efficiency Programme, Electric Vehicles Delivery Plan and through specific contracts such as the Highways Maintenance and Works Contract.

Buildings Energy Efficiency Programme (BEEP)
The BEEP programme makes it financially feasible for cities to radically cut emissions from their buildings and enable worldwide procurement collaboration on key technologies. The programme uses an innovative commercial model to create cost neutral means to reduce both energy bills and the carbon footprint of buildings. Energy service companies assure a set level of energy savings, which guarantees a future income stream to fund investment in improvements. By securing savings the project pays for itself, reducing the financial barriers for organisations.

In London, the pilot project was launched in 2008, covering 42 buildings across London. The energy savings are expected to be over 25%. Phase 2 is adding an additional 58 buildings. The framework agreement for phase 3 will be awarded in early 2010 and will open to all UK public authorities to use. The programme is part of the Clinton Climate Initiative.

Independent auditors confirm successful results
Each year the GLA group has its sustainable purchasing activity independently audited through the Mayor of London's Green Procurement Code. Each group member received Gold Standard in the recent audit, which identified that over 500,000 tonnes of waste had been diverted from landfill through GLA group recycling projects and nearly 40 tonnes of CO2 was saved through the purchase and use of energy efficient equipment.
Electric Vehicles (EV)

The Mayor’s Electric Vehicle Delivery Plan for London sets out an ambitious plan to position London as a world leader in electric vehicle use. The plan commits the GLA group to lead by example, and through analysis of its vehicle fleets it has identified 975 vehicles with the potential to be converted to electric or plug-in vehicles over the next few years. Further work is being undertaken to test suitable alternatively-fuelled and electric vehicles and examine the most appropriate use of infrastructure. Collaborative procurement options across the UK’s public sector are being considered to stimulate the future growth of the EV market. The Metropolitan Police Service currently uses 123 hybrid vehicles, one of the largest hybrid fleets in the public sector. The GLA group is participating in the ICLEI SMART SPP project on EVs.

Highway Maintenance Contracts

Training, diversity and environmental outcomes have been incorporated into TfL’s £1.2 billion 6-year highways maintenance contract, which maintains TfL’s 580 km road network. These have included:

• Creating 15 new apprenticeship positions
• Introducing electric and dual fuel vehicles into the fleet servicing the contract;
• The adoption of an innovative recycling process resulting in diverting more than 400 tonnes of material from landfill, and delivering more than 2,000m² of resurfaced footway quicker and approximately 20% cheaper than traditional methods.
• Following TfL’s engagement the contractors have signed up to the Mayor’s Diversity Works for London programme which supports the private sector in improving equality and diversity practices.

Further examples of RP Programme benefits

• Over 100 organisations across London now pay a minimum of the Living Wage, with around 6,000 Londoners benefitting
• Nearly 80% of SMEs who supply services to the GLA group are currently paid within 10 working days
• Over 100 new apprenticeship positions will have been created within TfL’s supply chain by November 2009
• Over 200 GLA group staff have benefited from the Responsible Procurement training

Involvement in international climate initiatives

The Mayor launched his ‘Leading to a Greener London’ programme in July to ensure London is recognised as a world leader in improving the environment locally and globally, by tackling climate change, reducing pollution, developing a low carbon economy, consuming fewer resources and using resources more effectively.

City profile & contacts

London, the capital of the United Kingdom, is a major global city and one of the world’s largest financial centres. It has a population of approximately eight million people and Greater London covers an area of 607 square miles.

Responsible Procurement Website: www.london.gov.uk/rp
Green Procurement Code: www.greenprocurementcode.co.uk
Electric Vehicles : www.london.gov.uk/mayor/priorities/transport
London Climate Change Partnership: www.london.gov.uk/lccp