



Green Public Procurement Strategy 2024-2026

1. Vision

Our vision is to seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their lifecycle in the pursuit of environmental sustainability. The public sector has a vital role to play in leading Ireland's transition to a sustainable and carbon-neutral economy and society. Collaborative partnerships with suppliers of goods, services and works will ensure our commitment to sustainable procurement. Advancing the vision will include delivering on the actions identified in the *Climate Action Plan* and *Corporate Procurement Plan* resulting in governance changes, and creating an understanding of action needed to be taken by staff, contractors and members of the public. This approach will define key priorities, outline specific actions, establish targets, and set timelines, thereby creating a comprehensive framework for every element of the *Tipperary County Council Green Public Procurement Strategy*. The introduction of check controls in all procurement procedures will ensure that all actions are completed. We will promote the use of criteria relating to the circular economy in public procurement. Our Vision emphasises the need to adapt, develop, innovate and communicate to achieve the targets set out in the Low Carbon Development Act and Climate Action Plan resulting in a positive and sustainable outcome.

2. Scope and Priorities

Ireland has committed to implementing green public procurement (GPP) in all tenders using public funds by 2023. Drawing from the comprehensive EPA 2021 *Green Public Procurement – Guidance for the Public Sector* and the national *Buying Greener - Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2027*, our approach also considers the specificities of the Irish market, including procurement practices, ensuring relevancy and adaptability to our local context. We, therefore, incorporate a framework shaped by both EU and Irish GPP criteria. Our commitment to the *Climate Action Plan* is evidenced by our determination to integrate GPP across all our expenditure channels. This not only ensures financial prudence but also demonstrates our responsibility towards the environment.

Following an extensive review of our current contract portfolio, as well as discussions with key stakeholders and upcoming tenders, we have identified several categories warranting prioritisation. These categories are selected based on the magnitude of expenditure, their environmental footprint, and the overarching objective of aligning with the Climate Action Plan:

1. **Works Contracts:** In our construction and infrastructure projects, we aim to align with targets set out in national guidelines as much as is feasible. This includes considering sustainable sourcing of materials and waste management practices within the scope of these projects.
2. **Works-Related Services Contracts:** Complementary to our main projects, auxiliary contracts will also abide by the environmental standards set forth by the GPP criteria.
3. **Plant Hire:** Equipment rental will be sourced from partners who demonstrate a commitment to sustainable practices and eco-friendly machinery.

4. **Road Materials:** Tipperary County Council will prioritise the use of sustainable, recycled, and eco-friendly materials for all roadworks, where viable.
5. **Energy:** We aim to transition to renewable sources wherever feasible, prioritising clean and sustainable energy contracts.
6. Procurement of **Road Transport Vehicles:** While TCC operates its own machinery yards, our strategy emphasises the acquisition of eco-friendly and fuel-efficient vehicles where possible.
7. **Repairs and Maintenance of road transport vehicles:** We recognise that maintenance involves the use of parts from various suppliers. Our priority is to source spare parts that adhere to the GPP's environmental standards.
8. **Computer Equipment:** Procurement of ICT products and services will be from suppliers who can demonstrate sustainability, energy efficiency, and longevity.
9. Tipperary County Council will implement the EPA's National GPP Guidance and Criteria Search and guidance for its priority sectors as relevant to the local authority.

By focusing on these areas, Tipperary County Council aims to bring about tangible environmental benefits, fulfilling our commitment to both our community and the planet. Initial targets and actions are set out in Appendices I and II of this document. These will be updated and extended biannually in line with national targets as they develop and as senior managers and budget holders agree specific targets.

This GPP Strategy for 2024-2026 focuses on integrating environmental considerations into procurement processes within the Tipperary County Council. Key aspects of the strategy include:

1. **Decentralised Approach:** Involvement of each Directorate and Section in managing their procurement needs with GPP considerations.
2. **Consultative and Inclusive Strategy:** Emphasis on collaboration across various Council sections for effective GPP implementation.
3. **Focus on Tender Processes:** Integration of environmental considerations in both pre and post-tender stages.
4. **Identifying the Requirements:** Identifying and employing the requirements needed to provide successful reporting and monitoring of GPP activities.
5. **Training and Review:** Essential training for staff and ongoing review processes to ensure the strategy's success.

Initiatives include, the identification of tools required for GPP implementation, expertise for pre-tender environmental impact assessments, market research for GPP, inclusion of GPP criteria in tenders, and dedicated training for staff.

The implementation of GPP is influenced by Time, Cost, and Quality factors, the balancing of which is crucial for the strategy's success.

3. Actions

The *Buying Greener Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2027* commits to the overall target that all public bodies include GPP criteria in all tender competitions using public funds, where possible.

Tipperary County Council will introduce GPP Checkpoints to existing procurement procedures that will record compliance with the GPP principles

GPP Principle 1: Consider environmental sustainability when assessing need

GPP Principle 2: Insert GPP criteria in published tender documentation

GPP Principle 2a: When inserting GPP Criteria, use national GPP criteria for goods, services or works, where available

GPP Principle 2b: Use GPP criteria from other sources where no national GPP sectoral GPP criteria is available

GPP Principle 2c: Use 'Minimum Sustainability/Environmental Criteria' where no national, EU GPP criteria or other guidance for the goods, services or works being procured are available.

GPP Principle 2d: Where a sustainable or environmental solution is not available on the market, consideration should be given to using an innovative procurement procedure or the innovation partnership to find goods, services, or works that meet your needs.

GPP Principle 3: Comply or Explain

4. Targets and Timelines

Objective: Streamline procurement processes that have considerable environmental and high carbon impacts. Enhance Green Public Procurement (GPP) controls, market engagement, staff training, and periodic review of contracts to prioritize environmental sustainability.

Action	Target	Timeline
1. Introduction of GPP checkpoint controls		
1.1 Amend the existing Pre-Tender compliance process to incorporate a new <i>GPP Checklist Form</i> . The form will record each tender manager's response to the new <i>Strategic Procurement</i> data fields introduced on the eTenders platform as well as data required by TCC.	All procurement procedures of €25,000 and over	January 2024
1.2 Procurement Coordinator and tender manager record GPP elements of tender before it is published.	All procurement procedures of €25,000 and over	January 2024
1.3 Work closely with the finance section and senior budget holders to identify a checkpoint that includes the explicit requirement to identify a procurement strategy at the initial stages of the budgeting and project planning process. This should be done as early as possible to align the with the budget holders' strategic approach and to capitalise on GPP opportunities.	All spend or aggregate spend of €25,000 and over	2024 - 2026
1.4 The procurement office, in collaboration with budget holders, procurement coordinators and tender managers, will determine the optimal stages within their department's spend and contract management processes to integrate GPP criteria. This includes identifying strategic points in tender documentation where GPP requirements can be included, establishing clear evaluation methods for these criteria, and defining the process for monitoring GPP compliance post-delivery of supplies, services, or works. The goal is to ensure that suppliers/contractors not only commit to GPP standards in their tender	All spend or aggregate spend of €25,000 and over	2024 - 2026

Action	Target	Timeline
submissions but also adhere to these standards throughout the execution of the contract.		
1.5 Inclusion of GPP as set agenda item at Team Development Plan meetings	All Departments	2024 - 2026
2. Pre-tender needs assessment	Projects with significant environmental impacts ¹	2024 - 2026
3. Market engagement before tender release	As necessary for all projects where market capacity for GPP requirements is uncertain.	2024 - 2026
4. Incorporate GPP criteria in specification/selection/ award criteria	All spend or aggregate spend of €25,000 and over	January 2024
5. Sectoral Targets	Meet the sectoral targets and actions as set out in the Buying Greener plan, its revisions and national circulars as they arise. Appendix 1 Sectoral Targets and Appendix 2 The Built environment Sector	Starting Jan 2024
6. GPP-focused staff training	Training for all staff members involved in procurement and contract management	2024 - 2026
7. Review and possibly amend contracts / frameworks for GPP	Relevant for all procurement categories. Examine all contracts and frameworks during renewal for environmental impacts.	2024 - 2026

¹ Significant environmental impacts include greenhouse gas emissions, air, water or soil pollution, waste, water consumption and impacts on natural resources and biodiversity. Where uncertainty exists about the level of impact associated with a contract, an internal estimate must be made.

5. Requirements and Reporting

Tipperary County Council has a decentralised procurement structure where each Directorate and its component Sections manage their own procurement needs. All Sections will be involved and impacted by these GPP requirements. It needs to be noted that:

1. This strategy pivots around GPP implementation across multiple procurement categories.
2. It is imperative to start with a consultative approach, bringing various sections of the Council into the conversation.
3. The emphasis is on both pre and post-tender processes, ensuring environmental considerations are integral at all stages.
4. Training and ongoing review processes are foundational to the strategy's success.

In the event that the identified requirements are fully available and allocated as planned, the execution of reporting and monitoring activities as set out in points 5.1 - 5.7 below will proceed as scheduled. However, should there be a shortfall or unavailability of the requirements identified, it is important to note that the completion of these reporting and monitoring tasks may be significantly hindered or may not be feasible.

5.1. Introduction of GPP check controls

- Requirements: GPP requirements will include control software and tools to enable the procurement office, procurement coordinators and tender managers effectively record and manage data. Design of reporting software and tools would at a minimum have the capacity to link to reporting systems being developed nationally or by the Climate Action Team, TEA, CARO, tender managers, sections, budget holders etc.
- Reporting: Biannual reports detailing the percentage of procedures with GPP elements in place. Biannual review of any discrepancies or failures in implementing GPP checks.

5.2. Pre-tender needs assessment:

- Requirements: Each section will need to acquire expertise for pre-tender needs assessment for spend on activities that incur significant environmental impacts. This includes greenhouse gas emissions, air, water or soil pollution, waste, water consumption and impacts on natural resources and biodiversity. Where uncertainty exists about the level of impact associated with a contract, an internal estimate must be made. Dedicated training for the Procurement staff on GPP needs assessment will be required.
- Reporting: Biannual report listing the projects identified and the environmental impacts. The details will be submitted via the *GPP Checklist Form*

5.3. Market engagement before tender release:

- Requirements: Need in each Directorate for market research tools, surveys, and stakeholder meetings.
- Reporting: Biannual reports on market engagements, challenges identified, and potential solutions. Special reports on instances where market capacity for GPP is unknown.

5.4. Incorporate GPP criteria in specifications and/or award criteria:

- Requirements: Technical expertise in writing tender with knowledge of GPP and the specific procurement categories. GPP criteria database access.

- Reporting: Periodic reports twice a year detailing the number of tenders released with GPP criteria. A report mechanism will need to be developed to enable each tender manager to report on any challenges faced, and feedback from tenderers.

5.5. Sectoral Targets:

- Training for Staff: Individuals in charge of drafting tender requirements will require training in new technologies and heightened awareness of social and environmental issues. This training is essential to guarantee that their procurement decisions support sustainability.
- Reporting: A report mechanism will need to be developed to enable each tender manager to report on the sectoral targets and actions as set out in Appendix 1 (Sectoral Targets) and Appendix 2 (The Built environment Sector) and the ongoing additions to these appendices as further actions and targets are identified.

5.6. GPP-focused staff training:

- Requirements: External GPP trainers, online training modules, and workshops. Requirement for continual training and development in GPP.
- Reporting: Annual report on staff training metrics, including the number of staff trained, effectiveness of training (pre- and post-assessment), and areas requiring improvement.

5.7. Review and possibly amend contracts/frameworks for GPP:

- Requirements: Availability of Tender Manager, Procurement Coordinator and procurement expertise to review any existing contracts/framework identified. Legal support for possible amendments.
- Reporting: Biannual reports on the number of contracts reviewed, findings regarding environmental impact, and amendments made. Yearly summary report highlighting major achievements and challenges.

6. Monitoring, reporting, and review of the environmental impacts:

Reporting requirements will have to consider the need to obtain the right information, at the right time, that data is coherent and consistent. The reporting needs to be aligned with other similar reporting requirements and structures where possible to ensure that the reporting burden is minimised. This is particularly important in the decentralised procurement environment.

The procurement office will collect and summarise the data arising from the checkpoints it implements, at tender and pre-tender stages. At a national and EU level, the OGP eTenders platform has already configured the Contract Notices and Contract Award Notices to capture GPP data and report on GPP implementation.

The pre-tender *GPP Checklist form* will be available to the Procurement Coordinators and Tender managers to be placed in their own contract management systems. Ongoing monitoring, measurement and review of KPIs and impact of green actions will be the role of each tender manager and their Directorates. This will involve the engineers, environmental and other experts in the monitoring process. These professionals can provide insights into the specific metrics to be monitored and the best practices for minimising environmental impact. Linking the monitoring and reporting process with local initiatives, such as the Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA) and the TCC Climate Action Plan team, can ensure alignment with broader environmental goals. This connection can also provide access to

specialised knowledge and resources for better environmental management. Procurement will play a supportive role in environmental monitoring and are willing to collaborate with TEA, tender managers, and the climate action plan team.

7. Ownership and Communication

The success of the Tipperary County Council Green Public Procurement (GPP) Strategy is founded upon robust ownership and clear communication channels. The Procurement Office has been assigned primary ownership of the development of this GPP Strategy. A key aspect of this strategy is our commitment to regular consultations both internally, across various departments, and externally with suppliers, local businesses, and the general public. This collaborative method ensures that the strategy reflects our local context, is in tune with the market realities, and gathers broader community support.

We recognise the importance of transparency; thus, the GPP Strategy will be made accessible on the Tipperary County Council's official website. Annual reviews, updates, and progress reports will be published through the TCC Climate Action Plan reporting structure as well as any other platforms that may be required by the OGP and EPA, fostering a culture of accountability. For further inquiries, feedback, or comments on the strategy, members of the public and stakeholders can reach out to the Procurement Office, whose contact details will be available on our website.

Appendix 1. Sectoral Targets (will be subject to change)

Sectoral/Product Targets ²	
Source: These are the relevant updated targets set out in the <i>Buying Greener - Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2027</i> . Tipperary County Council will aim to achieve these targets. These will be updated and extended in line with national targets as they develop and as senior managers and budget holders agree specific targets.	
The Built Environment	
T1	From 2025, a minimum proportion of construction materials procured by public bodies under new contract arrangements comprise recycled materials ³
Food Procurement and Food Waste	
T2	From the date of publication of the GPP Strategy and Action Plan a minimum of 10% by value (€) of food sought by public sector bodies under new contract arrangements (including via contractors such as canteen service providers), is to be certified organic in each of the following categories of Cereals, fresh Beef, Lamb, Pork, Poultry, Fish, Vegetables and Dairy products, where possible.
T3	From 2025, 100% of new contract arrangements related to canteen or food services to include measures that are targeted at addressing food waste, with a specific focus on food waste prevention, taking into account Ireland's commitment to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030, and food waste segregation.
T4	From 2024, 100% of new contract arrangements related to canteen or food services (including food services for public sector organised conferences) to cease using disposable/single use cups, plates and cutlery from any public sector canteen, closed facility, and public sector organised conferences, excluding clinical (i.e., non-canteen healthcare) environments.
ICT EQUIPMENT	
T5	By 2025, a minimum of 80% of ICT end user products (desktop computers, portable computers and mobile phones) procured by public sector bodies under new contract arrangements are certified to EPEAT Gold Standard (or equivalent), TCO Certified (or equivalent) or will have been remanufactured.
TEXTILES	
T6	By 2027, polyester fibre products procured by public sector bodies under new contract arrangements must be manufactured using a minimum recycled content of 20%, where possible and proportionate.
PAPER PRODUCTS AND PRINTING	
T7	From January 2024, where office paper for printing and photocopying must be procured, 100% of the paper must be recycled paper.
ENERGY RELATED PRODUCTS, HEATING EQUIPMENT, INDOOR AND OUTDOOR LIGHTING	

² The targets apply to procurement above the relevant national procurement thresholds that is using public funds

³ This target will be updated following further data analysis, and publication of the 2nd Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy which will include sectoral targets in relation to the construction sector.

T8	From January 2025, 100% of all tenders for the public procurement of energy related products, heating equipment, or indoor and outdoor lighting to include a requirement for tenderers to specify recommendations and options for the product, when the product or components of the product comes to the end of life, that consider environmental sustainability, including options for repair, reuse and recycling.
T9	100% of all tenders for the public procurement of heating systems to not install heating systems that use fossil fuels, in (1) new buildings, and (2) “major renovation” retrofit projects (as defined in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)) subject to exceptions as specified in the Public Sector Climate Action Plan Mandate 2023.
Indoor Cleaning Services	
T10	From January 2025, 100% of all tenders for the public procurement of indoor cleaning services to include a requirement for tenderers to specify the training that will be put in place to ensure that all staff involved in delivery of the contract have the knowledge and skills to apply cleaning methods, which will reduce the environmental impact of the services.
Road Transport Vehicles	
T11	100% of all tenders for the public procurement of vehicles to procure zero emissions vehicles only, subject to exceptions as specified in the Public Sector Climate Action Plan Mandate 2023.
Reuse and Repair	
T12	By end of 2027, where possible and available, a minimum proportion of annual procurement by public sector bodies shall include used or repaired goods or materials ⁴

⁴ Availability of used or repaired goods will be informed by the national network to support and scale reuse and repair in Ireland that has been established by the EPA.

Appendix 2. Actions on Green Public Procurement

In section '2. Scope and Priorities' of this document Tipperary County Council has identified priorities in the built environment sector. This includes both building and civils works. Work is ongoing at national and EU level to set targets in this sector. The current status is set out in Chapter 7 of *Buying Greener - Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2027*. Tipperary County Council will adhere to the guidance, interim measures set out in that chapter as far as possible. TCC will begin implementing GPP requirements arising from the actions listed in the document once the relevant legislation, studies, technical guidelines, required training, and required tools are established. These will be updated and extended in line with national targets, as agreed upon by senior managers and budget holders.

No.	Action	Timeline
Public Procurement Guidelines, Central Purchasing Arrangements, Corporate Procurement Plans		
A2	With immediate effect, all future Central Purchasing Arrangements published shall include contract specific GPP criteria, where possible, including minimum environmental/ sustainability criteria (refer to Appendix III, for example). Where arrangements allow for a mini-competition to take place, the arrangements shall accommodate the possibility for inclusion of GPP criteria at the mini-competition stage.	2024, 2025, 2026, 2027
A5	All public bodies in updating their corporate policies and strategies, and Corporate Procurement Plans are to set out how they will adhere to GPP Strategy and Action Plan obligations related to their organisation.	From 2024
A17	All public bodies to actively promote the use of GPP Criteria Search within their organisations and include this commitment in their Corporate Procurement Plans.	2024, 2025, 2026, 2027
A18	From the publication date of the GPP Strategy and Action Plan, all public bodies to include GPP criteria in all tender documents, where possible, in accordance with the GPP Implementation Mandate set out in the GPP Strategy and Action Plan (Figure 1). EU level.	From 2024
A19	From 2025, all public bodies to include GPP criteria in all tender documents, where possible, in accordance with the GPP Implementation Mandate set out in the GPP Strategy and Action Plan (Figure 1). National level	From 2025
The Built Environment		
A20	By the end of 2025, Capital Works Management Framework to include reference to available guidance that is in accordance with the EPBD, using CPR data where available and EN 15978, as appropriate, for public bodies on inclusion of low carbon construction related components and sustainable building processes, and reference to GPP criteria related to construction, including National GPP Guidance and Criteria, where appropriate. Examine how implementation of GPP can be reported as part of other key reporting (e.g., project spend) at the project close stage (e.g., Stage 4 of the Capital Works Management Framework).	2025

A21	<p>In line with the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate all public bodies shall specify low carbon construction methods and low carbon cement material as far as practicable for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2023.</p> <p>Public bodies must include specifications for low carbon construction related components and sustainable building processes in accordance with EPBD, using CPR data where available and EN 15978, and reference to GPP criteria related to construction, including National GPP guidance, where appropriate in the Preliminary Project Brief. In addition, whole life cycle analysis in accordance with EN 15978, where appropriate, shall be used to inform the design of building projects over 1,000 m² to ensure life cycle GWP is optimised at the building level and to facilitate declarations of embodied carbon for inclusion in the BER/EPC of buildings completed after 31 December 2027.</p>	<p>From 2023</p> <p>From 2026</p>
A22	Life Cycle Costing to be used by all public bodies for all works contracts as defined by the Capital Works Management Framework.	From 2025
A23	For the procurement of low carbon cement material, public bodies and beneficiaries of grant (Exchequer) to implement construction related technical guidance, once established by the relevant body.	From 2024
Food Procurement and Food Waste Prevention Procurement		
A24	Update Central Purchasing Arrangements to include specific GPP criteria related to organic food procurement and food waste prevention.	From 2024
GPP Training and Awareness		
A29	All public bodies to set out (e.g., within public sector Climate Action roadmaps) and fulfil annual staff training commitments in relation to GPP with a priority focus on key goods/services/works applicable to those organisations.	From 2024
GPP Monitoring and Reporting		
A36	<p>From 2024, all public bodies to report on use of GPP (via contract award information and notices) in relation to individual contracts valued over the applicable EU procurement thresholds in accordance with guidance and Circular 05/23.</p> <p>From 2025, all public bodies to report on use of GPP (via contract award information and notices) in relation to individual contracts valued over the applicable national procurement thresholds (pending implementation of new below European Union threshold eForms), in accordance with guidance and Circular 05/23.</p>	<p>From 2024 – EU Thresholds</p> <p>From 2025 – National thresholds</p>
A37	From 2025, all public bodies to report explanation for not including GPP criteria in published tender documentation for contracts valued over the applicable national/EU procurement thresholds where National GPP criteria are available.	From 2025

Appendix 3. Minimum Environmental Criteria for Public Procurement of Goods and Services

In relation to all goods and services contracts valued over the relevant procurement thresholds, and with effect from the GPP Strategy and Action Plan publication date, where no suitable national, EU, or other GPP criteria are available for goods or services being procured, public bodies must include minimum GPP criteria as distinct criteria in the published tender documentation. Depending on the goods or service being procured, this may be a technical specification, a selection criterion, and/or an award criterion.

Where the environmental aspect is included as an award criterion, maximum marks awarded should be proportionate, and take into consideration the potential environmental impact of the goods or services being procured. Marks within the range of 5% to 10% are recommended.

Public bodies should consider the following menu of options⁷⁸ in setting green criteria which need to be proportionate in terms of the nature of the tender:

- Provide evidence of two recent and comparable contracts that were delivered with supporting environmental measures (e.g., staff sustainability and awareness training, environmental management system implementation)
- A detailed description of the environmental impacts of the goods or services being procured over their life cycle, including GHG emission reductions, compared to alternative goods and services, where appropriate
- A quantification of the estimated carbon footprint of the goods being procured and proposed mitigation steps to provide goods with the lowest carbon footprint
- The practical steps that the tenderer will take to deliver the contract in an environmentally sustainable manner, including sustainability awareness training for personnel involved in contract fulfilment
- Set out proposals for the monitoring, measurement and reporting during contract delivery of environmental and circular economy impacts of the goods or services supplied, including GHG emission reductions, energy efficiency and/or sustainable resource use

Some or all of these criteria should be included as appropriate, provided they are relevant to the contract. Public Bodies must specify a means of verifying any environmental claims.

Appendix 4 Acronyms, Links

CARO Climate Action Regional Office

EPA Environmental Protection Agency

GPP Green Public Procurement

OGP Office of Government Procurement

TCC Tipperary County Council

TEA Tipperary Energy Agency

[EPA's National GPP Guidance and Criteria Search](#)

[EPA 2021 Green Public Procurement – Guidance for the Public Sector](#)

[Buying Greener: Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027](#)

[Circular 20/2019, Promoting the use of Environmental and Social Considerations in Public Procurement](#), in the process of being updated

[Opportunities and approaches for Sustainable Public Procurement](#)

Appendix 5. The team who prepared the GPP Strategy 2024-2026:

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Version control

Version No.	Procurement Strategy Group	Brought to Management Team	
Version 1.1 Update	Noted and Agreed 22 April 2024	Due: April 2024	Updates highlighted in yellow. Reflecting update of National of Buying Greener - Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2027 .
Version 1.0 Adopted	Adopted 15 January 2024	Noted 20 January 2024	