

Greener Public Procurement in Denmark

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Development and data division

Topics

- Why green procurement?
- History and legal basis
- Activities
 - Guidelines
- Status
- Obstacles
- Conclusion

Why green public procurement?

- Reduce the environmental impact of public consumption
- Consistency between requirements to others and own actions
- Promoting a market for greener products
 - **Important part of Integrated Product Policy and Sustainable Consumption and Production**

History and legal basis

1992: New Environmental Protection Act:
Public authorities must.... in connection with procurement... endeavour to promote the objectives of this act.

1994: Action Plan for a Green Public Procurement Policy

1995: Circular to State institutions

1998: Voluntary agreement with the counties' and the municipalities' organisations

Activities

- Handbook/Manual
- Leaflets
- Product specific guidelines
- Guidelines on eco-labels, EMS and the EU procurement directives
- Seminars and conferences
- Education and training
- Subsidies for networks of purchasers

Product specific guidelines

- 47 different product groups
- Main env. aspects in whole life cycle
- Checklist: Suggested questions
- “The easy way”:
 - Eco-labels (EU flower, Nordic Swan, energy labels, others)
 - EMAS/ISO 14001
 - Other
- Coming: internet tool

Status

Green procurement policies:

	1997/98	2000
Municipalities	15 %	31 %
Counties	42 %	69 %
Gov. inst.	90/30 %	52 %

"Green" requirements:

Goods:	often
Services:	sometimes

Status

Small survey among suppliers to
National Procurement Limited (2001)

- | | always/often | sometimes |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|
| • Env. questions | 39 % | 17 % |
| • Env. decision | 20 % | 23 % |
- **50 %: env. requirements from public sector has influenced product development**
 - **80 % expect more env. requirements**

Obstacles

- Knowledge
- Time
- Money ?
- Motivation
- Lack of political decisions at the local level

Conclusion

- Public sector has potential to make a difference on the market
- Increase in green public procurement, but slow
- Other instruments ?