

Sustainable Public Procurement in Israel

The share of public procurement in GDP in Israel is high (10.24 per cent), and the public sector has been recognized as a key player in catalyzing the demand for green products and services and for serving as an example of sustainable consumption. It is expected the green procurement process will serve as a signal for change to suppliers and other stakeholders, who will be required to comply with mandatory environmental criteria in a growing number of public tenders in the coming years. Such criteria may include, among others, requirements for energy stars or compliance with the restriction of hazardous substances directive. While the process initially focuses on the purchasing administration, it is expected that it will have an impact on the private market and hence on consumers as well.



A Sustainable consumption and Production National Action Plan (SDG12.1) was developed in Israel through nationally owned multi-stakeholder processes, focusing on social environmental businesses, cleantech, green public procurement, environmental standards and labeling and resource efficiency. The implementation of the plan is ongoing through selected projects and initiatives.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection, with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s support under the SwitchMed Programme, has developed a number of tools and methodologies to promote Sustainable Public Procurement in Israel.

Environmental criteria have already been integrated in several government tenders. However, the central government's part in public procurement is relatively small compared to that of the municipal. The Ministry of Environmental Protection assists several local authorities to incorporate green public procurement tenders into their process and to build the infrastructure needed to expand the use of such tenders in the local government.

A number of activities were developed in Israel to allow the country to move ahead in promoting sustainable public procurement practices and foster the switch through concrete actions and tools, including the mapping and identification of relevant and significant tenders, development of guiding documents in Hebrew for local authorities, and training and instruction to local authorities. In 2016-2017, the Ministry of Environmental Protection conducted 10 meetings/workshops for procurement managers in local authorities. The unique procurement needs of the local government were discussed and priorities for the preparation of green product sheets were set. More than 50 local authorities from the different geographical districts (North, Haifa, Center, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and South district) took part.



SwitchMed Programme is funded by the European Union

8
green
product sheets

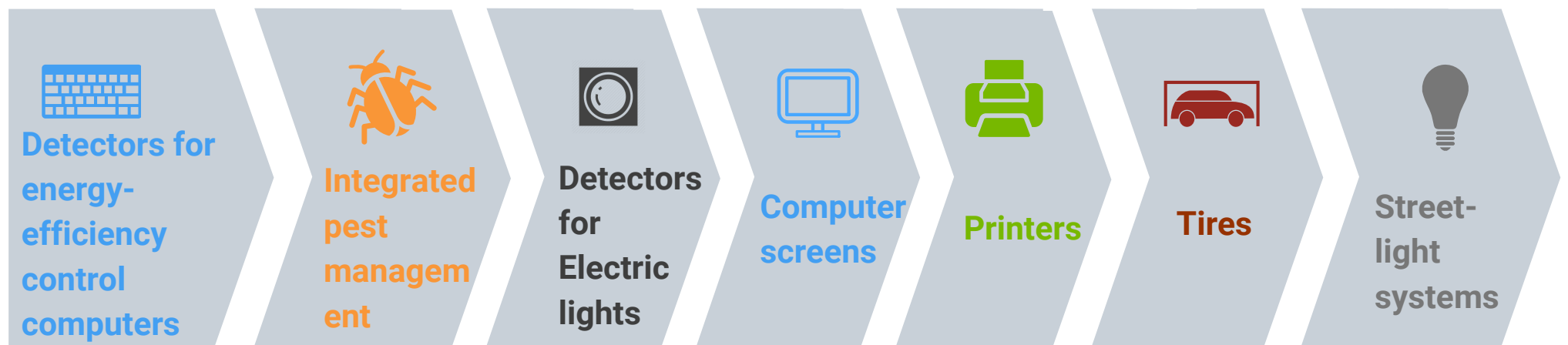
10
meetings/
workshops

6
geographical
districts

50
local
authorities

The consultation workshops and meetings were followed by the elaboration of product sheets to match the needs of the local authorities in specific areas.

Green product sheets



These product sheets are intended for use by purchasing managers in local authorities for the design of green tenders for the procurement of environmentally friendly products in these sectors. The document presents the main environmental impacts and proposes a set of criteria for each product from the aspect of energy consumption, hazardous substances in the product, noise, waste and product life span and hazardous substances in the product etc. for integration in tenders to reduce harmful effects by purchasing environmentally friendly alternatives. These product sheets were presented to the procurement managers in a series of six professional workshops and are available on the green public procurement web portal.

GPP web portal

A green public procurement web portal has been set up on the Ministry of Environmental Protection's website where all relevant information, including the guiding documents and the eight green product sheets, are easily accessible.

<http://www.sviva.gov.il/subjectsEnv/SustainDevelopment/Gov-Sustainability/Pages/gov-green-purchasing.aspx>



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UN Environment Programme

UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.



The EU-funded SwitchMed programme assists eight countries in the southern Mediterranean to switch to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and supports national and regional stakeholders in achieving productive, circular, and sharing economies in the Mediterranean. www.switchmed.eu