

# Sweden

## Framework, scope, action-plans

Public procurement is part of the government's climate action plan, which states that public procurement must contribute to achieving Sweden's climate goals. Sweden's climate action plan mentions that environmental costs over the entire life cycle should be taken into account for reduced climate impact, that public procurement plays an important role in designing the transport infrastructure in accordance with the environmental and climate goals and that investments in transport infrastructure should gradually develop to become climate neutral. The climate action plan is part of the climate policy framework. According to this framework, the government must issue a climate action plan every four years.

In Sweden, there is no national-level policy or strategic framework specific to GPP. However, the National Public Procurement Strategy (2017) identifies 7 strategic objectives to guide and steer the public procurement system, including (i) fostering innovation and alternative solutions, and (ii) promoting environmentally responsible public procurement. Besides central-level authorities, the 7 strategic objectives are expected to guide the public procurement strategies by contracting authorities and entities at the municipal and regional level as well.

The National Public Procurement Agency (NAPP), which was created in 2015, is responsible for supporting the implementation and follows up developments in the procurement area on a regular basis, i.e. in terms of environmental considerations.

Sweden has a national strategy for circular economy which points out the direction for the transition to circular production, consumption and business models as well as non-toxic and circular material cycles. An action plan is linked to the strategy, which states that public procurement should contribute to resource efficiency, recycling and circular business models.

## Implementation

The Swedish Public Procurement Act (2016) encourages environmental considerations in public procurements, but it does not include any mandatory requirement to use GPP and it is up to contracting authorities to integrate environmental criteria in public tenders. NAPP is tasked with working for increased environmental considerations and working to ensure that the generational goal for environmental work and the environmental quality goals that the Parliament has decided on are reached.

The agency provides a variation of support including guidance on circular economy within the procurement framework and methods for calculating the environmental impact as a result of public procurement.

NAPP also provides a criteria service, which features a database of criteria for different product categories, and with three ambition levels.

## Measurement and impact

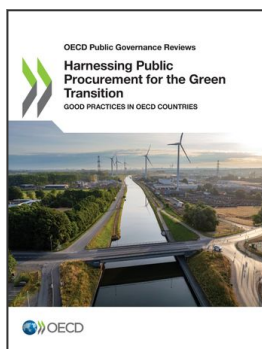
In Sweden only the number of public tenders must be reported in an award notice. However, according to the procurement laws, a notice must be published in a registered database. A database can only be registered if it meets the requirements for mandatory information. According to the procurement regulation, notices below the threshold values must contain, among other things, if the procurement contains requirements or conditions relating to environmental considerations.

The contracting authorities use electronic procurement tools to advertise procurements in the registered databases. In the procurement tool, you fill in information about the procurement in a ready-made notice form. The notice is then created automatically in the database that the procuring organisation use. Even though the country has not developed a standardised methodology to evaluate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions savings from public tenders, some contracting authorities report on the environmental and climate impacts of selected purchasing areas, e.g. CO<sub>2</sub> saving. In addition, close to 200 government agencies are covered by the regulation (2009:907) on environmental management in government agencies, which means that they must introduce and develop environmental management systems and every year follow up and report the results of the work. Part of the report refers to the total amount of CO<sub>2</sub> (kg) and per annual workforce regarding air travel, car travel, train travel, bus travel, machinery and other vehicles.

## Recent developments

A new climate action plan will be decided by the end of 2023. It also contains writings about public procurement.

From 1 January 2024, it will also be mandatory to state in all procurement notices whether considerations are taken to environmental sustainability.



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