



# GREENING COP17

## Green Procurement Guidelines

### Introduction

South Africa will be hosting the 17th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the seventh Meeting of the Parties (CMP) to the Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC COP17/CMP7, further shortened as COP 17) to be hosted from 28 November to 9 December 2011 in Durban, South Africa.

The aim is to host COP17 as a low carbon event and one of the objectives is to *“ensure that the procurement of goods and services is done in a sustainable manner, including the use of local products that have a minimal negative effect on the environment and to deliver increased performance of social responsibility”*.

This document provides an outline of criteria for products that can be used when promoting eco procurement. It is extracted and adapted from the South African National Greening Framework under the guidance of the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), while the source document is *“Leaving a Greening Legacy, Guidelines for Event Greening”*, by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Land Affairs (2003).

### Green Procurement

Green products are produced in a way that consumes fewer natural resources, involves less energy and water and minimises hazardous and other waste. They may require less energy to operate, contain fewer toxic or hazardous substances, or be recyclable. They generally offer long-term cost savings through efficient use of energy, longer lifespan and the production of less toxic waste that is expensive to transport, dispose of and obtain permits for.

When assessing how green a product is, consider all aspects of the product’s lifecycle; including the acquisition of materials, manufacturing, distribution, use, maintenance and disposal (see Pollution Reduction in section 2.3 of the National Greening Framework for a list of substances to avoid). Also calculate the total annual cost of the product across its lifetime to identify value for money.

Remember that this can be applied to both products and services!

The following questions can be asked when assessing products:

### Certification

- Has the product been certified by a credible institution?
- Does the national government in the host region or an internationally recognised specialist in the field support the certification?
- If the product has not been certified, what are the requirements for certification? Why has the product not been certified?



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## Acquisition of Materials

- Were natural resources used in the product sustainably harvested?
- Were other materials used produced in an environmentally responsible manner?
- Were materials purchased from small, medium, or micro-enterprises?
- Is a closed loop system promoted when considering purchases (cradle to cradle, or aimed for landfill)?

## Manufacturing

- Were products from threatened plants or animals, or resources from threatened environments used to manufacture the product?
- Were recycled materials used to manufacture the product? What percentage?
- Were production methods energy, water and resource efficient and designed to minimise waste and pollution?
- Was the use of toxic and hazardous materials minimised?
- Was waste and specifically hazardous waste disposed of safely?
- Are staff informed about environmental practices that are in place?
- Do manufacturers comply with human health standards and practice employment equity?

## Distribution

- Is packaging minimised? Do manufacturers accept packaging for reuse? Is packaging made of recycled materials?
- Can packaging be reused or locally recycled by the end user?
- Is the transport strategy designed to minimise waste and pollution and use energy efficiently?
- Is preference given to use of transport suppliers that are small, medium, or micro enterprises?
- Is preference given to use of local manufacturers?

## Use and Maintenance

- Does the product have a long anticipated lifespan?
- Are clear operating and maintenance instructions available?
- Can the product be easily and cost-effectively maintained and repaired?
- Can the product be upgraded easily?
- Is the product designed to use resources efficiently?
- Is the product designed to minimise waste?
- Is the product less polluting than its competitors?
- What is the payback period of the product? (capital vs operational expenditure)

## Disposal

- Is the product or are its parts reusable? Can it/they be sold?
- Is the product recyclable or biodegradable?
- Is it recyclable locally?
- Can the product be returned to the manufacturer for reuse or recycling?
- Does the product contain any banned or restricted substances?
- Does the product contain hazardous materials requiring special disposal?
- Do disposal methods include small, medium, or micro enterprises?

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Department of Environmental Affairs – [www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za)

Fairtrade in Tourism SA (FTTSA) – [www.fairtourismsa.org.za](http://www.fairtourismsa.org.za)

Green Leaf – [www.greenleafecostandard.net](http://www.greenleafecostandard.net)

Heritage SA – [www.heritagesa.co.za](http://www.heritagesa.co.za)

Indalo Yethu – [www.indaloyethu.com](http://www.indaloyethu.com)

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) – [www.msc.org](http://www.msc.org)

Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) – [www.panda.org](http://www.panda.org)



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