

# Making your procurements more sustainable

Get an introduction to more sustainable public purchases and procurements on public outdoor lighting, and the different terms and aspects you will meet.

## Why "go green"?

Cities account for 70% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions today. As the pace of urbanisation only quickens, cities face immense challenges relating to sustainable waste management, mobility, climate adaptation and energy. As their political, economical and technological power grow, cities can harness this trend to act as leaders in the green transition and drivers of the green economy.

The public sector can in other words be a driver for the green transition if they use their demand for products and services to request innovative and green solutions in purchases and procurements.

The main environmental impact in the public sector comes from the purchase of products and services, and therefore a more sustainable policy on purchases and procurement can reduce the environmental impact and drive the market in a greener direction.

## Public purchase


There are three central terms used in the debate on green transition by using public sector purchases. Be aware that some purchases have an economic dimension that requires a public procurement.

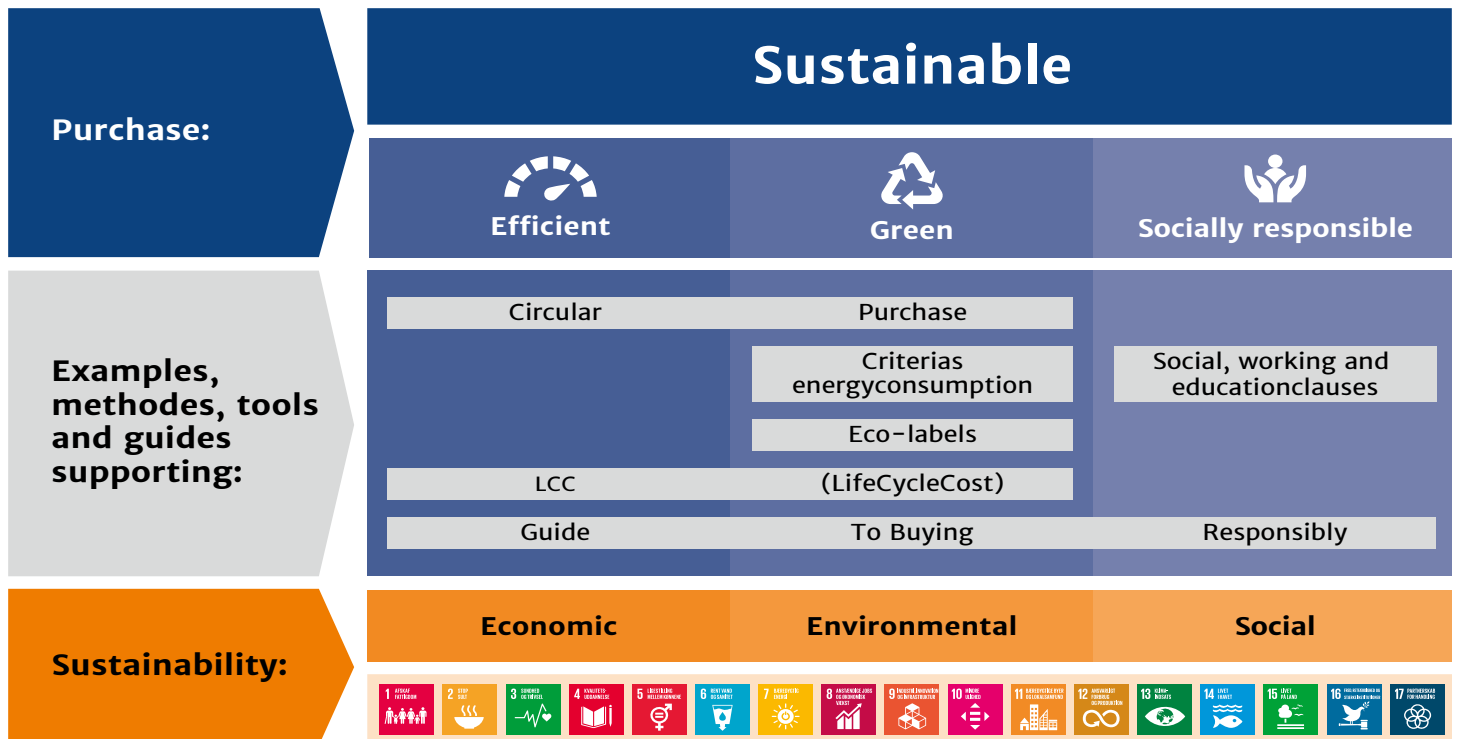
**1 Sustainable purchase.** Focus on products and solutions taking both the economic, the environmental and the social aspects into account in the whole lifecycle from production, to use and disposal.

Sustainable purchase can contribute to almost all the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>1</sup> Both in your own country and in the countries where the production takes place. For example, by addressing working environment, labor rights and production methods.

**2 Green purchase.** Focus on the environmental aspects like energy consumption and use of raw materials. On a green purchase you focus on the whole lifecycle from production, to use and disposal

**3 Circular purchase.** Focus on preserving the resources of the products as long as possible by using them several times. It is about closing the resource cycles by reusing and recycling and by maintaining and repairing products. In lighting circular purchase could include that the manufacturer takes back the luminaire when it breaks down, and repair and reuse it in the same municipality, or other business models that secure to reuse the luminaire.

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National agencies typically provide guidelines and tools on how to proceed with new types of purchase and procurement to support the work in municipalities. They can also be provided by international, national, or regional partnerships and initiatives. In the transition to LED in public street lighting, there has been a relatively low impact on lighting quality, life cycle aspects and on circular economy, and high focus on energy efficiency. These aspects can get more focus in sustainable purchase.<sup>2</sup>

## How to get started

- ▶ Learn from others.<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ Use existing tools and guides.<sup>4, 5, 6</sup>
- ▶ Co-operate with the internal purchase team/department.
- ▶ Secure the internal political and organisational support.
- ▶ Talk to the market – what can they deliver and what requirements are reasonable.



### References:

- 1 <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- 2 <https://lightingmetropolis.com/publications-categories/lifecycle-sustainability/>
- 3 <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/case-studies/selling-light-as-a-service>
- 4 The EU toolbox for green public purchase: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit_en.htm)
- 5 The EU handbook "Buying green!": <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/Buying-Green-Handbook-3rd-Edition.pdf>
- 6 The EU "Circular Economy Action Plan": [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new\\_circular\\_economy\\_action\\_plan.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new_circular_economy_action_plan.pdf)