

## Over 60 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emission reductions achievable through sustainable procurement – EcoProcura Call for Action launched!

360 delegates from 53 countries gathered at the sixth EcoProcura conference issued a strong Call for Action to all key actors around the world to deepen their commitment towards spending public money on sustainable products and services – to make their words a practical reality.

- **Driving sustainability through procurement**

More than €1 trillion is spent by European public authorities each year. Participants at the conference in Barcelona recognised the immense power of public procurers in bringing about huge environmental, social and economic improvements through their purchasing actions – locally and globally.

Over 60 million tonnes of greenhouse gas reductions alone could be achieved by European public authorities buying green electricity. Other major improvements could be made through public authorities buying energy efficient computers, green buildings, non-toxic cleaning products, organic food, low-emission buses, and helping to move the market towards more sustainable products and services.

Ensuring that high labour standards are met by public contractors, or buying Fair Trade products are examples of how to drive social improvements through procurement.

- **Sustainability doesn't cost more!**

Speakers demonstrated that buying sustainably does not mean higher costs. Huge savings can be made in usage and disposal costs by buying environmentally friendly products. The possibilities of joint procurement in driving prices down were also highlighted.

Top industry representatives also sent a clear signal to the conference – “if you demand it, we will supply it, at a good price”.

- **Now is the time to act**

Many very successful experiences of sustainable procurement were presented from around the world – the message was clear: **sustainable procurement works**.

The call from the conference, and at the heart of ICLEI's Procura<sup>+</sup> Campaign, is to now make sustainable procurement mainstream - the rule and not the exception.

With a clear legal framework, a large number of easy-to-use tools to support implementation, and a huge collection of impressive real life examples there is now no reason not to act

Delegates at the conference made a strong commitment to sustainable procurement, and called on all others around the world – in all sectors and at all levels – to join the movement.

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For more information on EcoProcura 2006, visit the conference website at: [www.iclei.org/itc/ecoprocura2006](http://www.iclei.org/itc/ecoprocura2006)

The European fair trade purchasing guidance can be found at: [www.iclei-europe.org/buyfair](http://www.iclei-europe.org/buyfair)

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