



CircPro Policy Brief - Norway

SMART CIRCULAR PROCUREMENT (max 4 pages)

Key drivers at the EU policy level

The European Green Deal¹ is the main policy initiative and growth strategy of the EU. Presented in December 2019, it sets out the overall objective for the EU to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, resulting in a cleaner environment, more affordable energy, smarter transport, new jobs and overall better quality of life. The Green Deal emphasises that public authorities, including the EU institutions, should lead by example and ensure that they procure green products and services.² It provides an action plan to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restoring biodiversity and cutting pollution. The action plan outlines investments needed and financing tools available to ensure a just and inclusive transition.

Accelerating the transformational change required by the European Green Deal, the Circular Economy Action Plan of the EU³ (2020) announces initiatives along the entire life cycle of products. The action plan targets the product design, promotes circular economy processes, fosters sustainable consumption, and aims to prolong the circulation of resources in the EU economy. In addition, the plan presents a set of interrelated initiatives to establish a strong and coherent product policy framework that will support sustainable products, services and business models and transform consumption patterns to minimise waste generation.

The Action Plan presents measures that make sustainable products the norm in the EU and empower consumers and public buyers. The plan focuses on the most resource-intensive sectors with a high potential for circularity, such as electronics and ICT, batteries and vehicles, packaging, plastics, textiles, construction and buildings, food, water and nutrient.

Public authorities' purchasing power represents 14% of EU GDP and can serve as a powerful driver for market demand. To exploit this potential, the Commission has developed **Green Public Procurement (GPP) criteria** to facilitate green requirements in public procurement for more than 20 product groups. These include 'core criteria' suitable for any contracting authority and focused on key environmental issues and 'comprehensive criteria' for procurements with a higher level of ambition.⁴

EUROPEAN
GREEN DEAL

CIRCULAR
ECONOMY
ACTION PLAN

GREEN PUBLIC
PROCUREMENT

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

² COM/2019/640 final <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1596443911913&uri=CELEX:52019DC0640#document2>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan_en

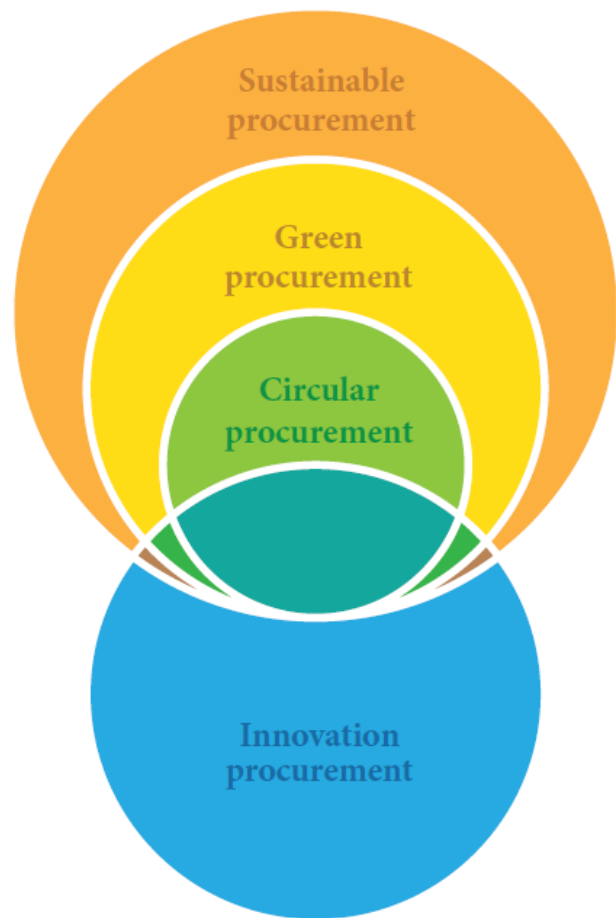
⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/eu_gpp_en_criteria.htm

The essence and importance of circular procurement

In light of finite resource flows, economies will no longer be able to rely on today's wasting linear "take-make-dispose" production and consumption models. A circular economy is an alternative to this model. It aims to keep products and materials in the value chain for a longer period and to recover raw materials after the lifetime of products for their next use.

Circular public procurement is an approach to greening procurement that recognises the public authorities' role in supporting the transition towards a circular economy. Circular procurement can be defined "as the process by which public authorities purchase works, goods or services that seek to contribute to closed energy and material loops within supply chains, whilst minimising, and in the best case avoiding, negative environmental impacts and waste creation across their whole life-cycle."⁵

Circular procurement is part of the broader sustainable procurement concept. Sustainable procurement is recognised as a strategic tool to drive innovation. Green procurement and more narrowly focused circular procurement are part of this wider agenda. Moreover, circular procurement is not only for purchasing products. By procuring innovative solutions, green and circular products, and new business models, it is possible to affect the whole product/service system or supply chain. Thus, circular procurement can be seen as a strategic instrument that plays an essential role in the transition towards the circular economy and a low-carbon future.



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Smart Circular Procurement (CircPro) project aims at promoting the transition to a more circular economy-oriented national and regional decision-making. CircPro's main objective is to improve the targeted policy instruments to incorporate the circular economy principles and criteria. Furthermore, CircPro targets circular procurement from different approaches and complexity, facilitating closed loops and shifting the focus from better quality products to new and innovative products and new business concepts. For further details, see <https://www.interregeurope.eu/circpro/>.



⁵ European Commission: Public Procurement for a Circular Economy, October 2017
https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/Public_procurement_circular_economy_brochure.pdf

Green and circular procurement in Norway

Briefly, what is the situation in the given country and what are the main challenges

Norway has demonstrated to be quite responsive to transformative trajectories driving sustainability into public procurement procedures, ref. for example the Climate act of 16.06.2017

<https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2017-06-16-60> that reflects the Paris Agreement, and the target for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced by at least 40 % by 2030 compared with the reference year 1990.

The policy and regulatory framework on national level are:

- Act for Public procurement, latest revised 01.01.2017
<https://lovdata.no/dokument/NLO/lov/1999-07-16-69>
This document sets the overall targets and regulation for PP, and is harmonized with the EU regulations
- Regulation for Public Procurement of 01.01.2017
<https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2016-08-12-974?q=forskrift%20om%20offentlige%20anskaffelser>
This regulation fulfills the intention set in the act mentioned above

The increasing attention on circular economy is confirmed by the policy paper “Smart procurement – efficient and professional public procurement”, that the Ministry sent to the Parliament in 2019
<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-22-20182019/id2641507/>.

In this document, CP is a central topic, and the political commitment are described in chapter 9.

Previous has other policy papers been sent from the Ministry to the Parliament (and accepted), for example “*Waist as a resource – waist-policy and circular economy*”

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-45-20162017/id2558274/>

The latest report with facts and information was published October 14th 2020:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/tema/klima-og-miljo/forurensning/sirkular-okonomi/fakta grunnlaget-til-strategi-for-sirkular-okonomi/id2741281/>

The Government's climate action plan confirms Norway's targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions, by 2050 Norway will be a low-emission community. The emission cut must be a minimum of 50% and up to 55% by 2030, and between 90-95% in 2050.

Climate action plan 2021-2030: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-13-20202021/id2827405/?ch=1>

Public procurement is highlighted as a key tool for achieving the goals of greenhouse gas reduction and transition to a low-emission community. Circular economy and increased focus on circular public procurement are highlighted as important tools (cf. chapter 3.3.4 and 6.6).

To help clarify the overall priorities, the government will present a comprehensive action plan to increase the share of climate- and environment-friendly public procurement and green innovation. The action plan will contribute to simplifying, streamlining, professionalising and targeting public procurement as a tool to achieve the goals the government has set itself in the climate and environmental area, and support green change.

Within the national context, the **Municipality of Elverum** stands out for its pioneering role, especially for the project “Ydalir” – a developing part of the city with a special green approach that has been recently awarded amongst best practices of green public procurement by the several institutions. Both the new Ydalir School and Ydalir Kindergarten has received several national prizes, and nominee to Arch Building of the year 2020.

Recommendations for actions and policy measures for enhancing circular procurement in Elverum / Norway

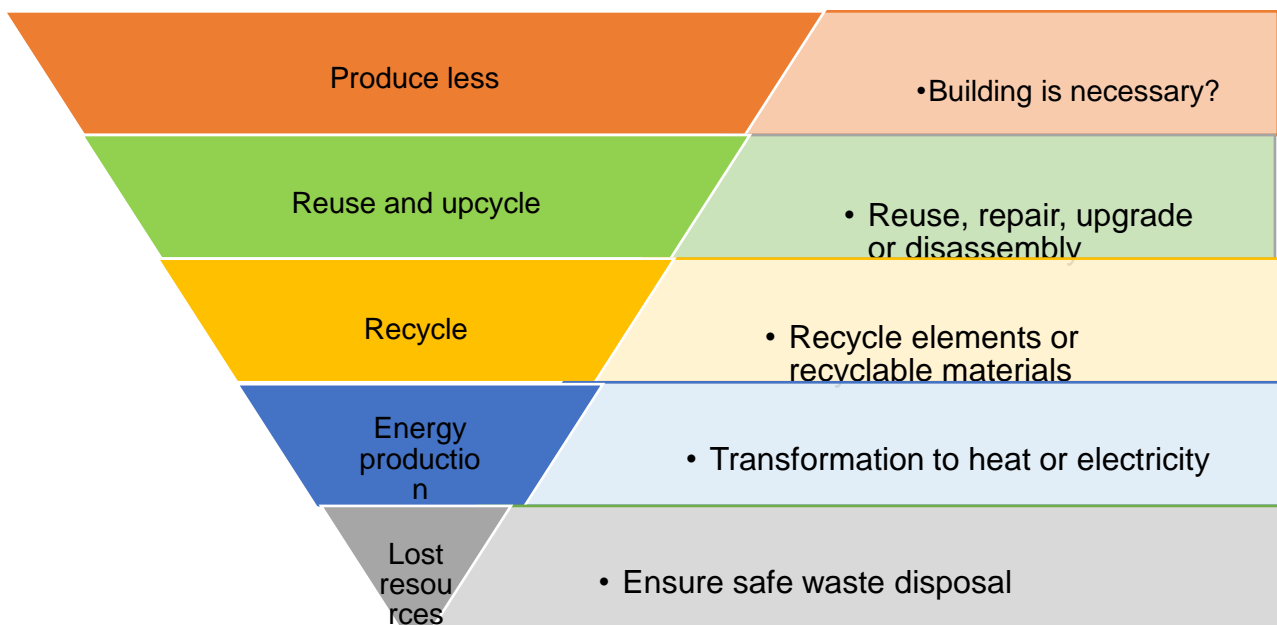
Here add recommendations for action and policy measures, which should be in-line with the CircPro action plan. But you can also add other recommendations for actions that go beyond the CircPro action plan.

At the local level in a Norwegian municipality (such as Elverum), a significant part of public procurement is linked to public buildings. This is also a sector where policies and solutions are largely determined locally.

We take our starting point in the well-known and accepted waste triangle:

Any measure that, during the planning, operation, construction, reconstruction, or disposal of the structure, contributes to lifting upwards to a higher level in the triangle, supports the circular way of thinking.

Reducing possible waste is better than re-use, which is better than the material recovery, which is better than burning (energy recovery), which is better than landfill.



This policy brief brings forward three main recommendations to improve the implementation of green and circular procurements within the building sector:

- 1) Good handbooks and guidelines for the use of sustainable and renewable solutions in public buildings.
- 2) The local Energy and Climate plans (SEAP) must be updated so that they reflect national requirements and objectives for CPP, as well as that the plans are harmonized in the region. It is also important with implementation and training.
- 3) Good practice from Elverum (as well as other CircPro partners) is made available in Innlandet county. This can most easily be done through the strategy work of the County's various regional councils.

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