

Bio-based products in procurement: Guidance now available!

Now Available: A guidance which facilitates procurers and other interested parties to obtain more information about bio-based products, to consider innovative bio-based products alongside other products in procurement.

The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (EASME) commissioned Royal HaskoningDHV to develop user friendly guidance and information materials which aim at facilitating the **uptake of bio-based products as part of innovative products in procurement**. This guidance draws on the broader objectives of the relevant European Policy Framework, such as the 'Circular Economy Package', 'Bioeconomy Strategy' and 'Innovation Procurement'.

The guidance and supporting material has now been published and can be obtained from the following website:



www.biobasedinprocurement.eu

What are bio-based products?

Bio-based products are products that are wholly or partly made from biomass. Examples of biomass from which bio-based products can be made are wood, starches extracted from different agricultural raw materials including organic waste streams such as grass clippings or potato peels.

Is it really possible?

Yes, it is possible. It is already happening and available from various sources. In some instances it's quite straightforward, such as the replacement of synthetic chemicals (produced from fossil fuels) with vegetable oil in paints and coatings. In other cases, it's about as complex as producing products from crude oil. For example, a bio-based polymer (such as polylactic acid (PLA)) can be produced from waste such as potato peels and other raw materials.

Why do you want to include innovative bio-based products in procurement?

Replacing fossil fuel use with biowaste and biomass leaves fossil fuels in the ground and thereby avoids greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and contributes to reaching the new climate and energy targets.

Bio-based products can have additional innovations because of their composition.

Examples include, amongst others, biodegradability or compostability under certain conditions, lower total costs of ownership, better product characteristics such as improved applicability and reduced health impact on the users from waste such as potato peels and other raw materials.

What bio-based products are out there?

Examples of bio-based products are bio-based paints and coatings, bio-based lubricants, bio-based geo-textiles and bio-based tableware.

Example: Compostable disposable tableware at the London Olympic Games

The Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) of London 2012 decided to use compostable disposable tableware. The LOCOG implemented the procurement criteria that the tableware should be compostable and certified in accordance with EN13432. Source: WRAP 'Working with compostable products and packaging in closed venue events' www.wrap.org.uk

What about bio-based products in procurement?

The available guidance materials for bio-based products in procurement aims at helping procurers and other interested parties being informed about novel developments and staying innovative by supplying a training handbook, dynamic meta database and this brochure all now available on the following website:



About the guidance

The guidance is developed for anyone implementing bio-based products in organisations or procurement.

The guidance aims at being practical and contains case studies providing examples and ideas on the uptake of innovative bio-based products in procurement next to any other products. Included in the guidance are factsheets which contain detailed information on the high innovation potential of some bio-based product groups.

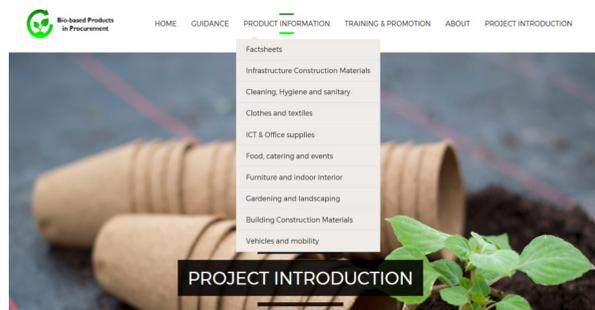
The guidance document was previously tested by procurers and optimized to fit their innovation needs!

Training material

A 'Handbook for Trainers' was also developed aiming at enabling trainers to transfer the knowledge contained in the guidance to interested parties. The handbook addresses the content of the guidance but also provides practical advice such as the target group for the training and an appropriate set up of the training (i.e. number of trainees).

The Dynamic Meta Database

Anyone looking for more information about bio-based products or product groups will benefit from the Dynamic Meta Database developed as part of this project. This is because this database contains for different procurement sectors links to relevant bio-based product databases. Also links to other relevant information are available on the project website.



Policy on bio-based products in procurement – Province of Zeeland, the Netherlands

The Province has the ambition to reduce the carbon intensity of its economy. In achieving this ambition, the following principles for procurement were identified:

- Make use of such innovative bio-based products with a low carbon footprint and life cycle benefits;
- Using a framework for suppliers to benchmark innovative products and stimulate suppliers to further improve;
- Stimulate the local economy by supporting pilots to develop innovations.

Source: (Buy with impact! (Martin Scherpenisse, Bruxelles, 27 october2015))



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