



## PROFILE

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is a non-partisan, public policy research institute that has a long history of conducting cutting-edge research into sustainable development. Headquartered in Winnipeg, Canada, and with offices in Ottawa, New York and Geneva, IISD fulfills its mandate through innovation, research and partnerships that span the globe, where over 100 staff and associates located in over 30 countries engage with decision-makers in business, government and non-government organizations to advocate sustainable development. IISD-Europe was established in 1998 in Geneva, Switzerland, to address diverse aspects of investment, trade, procurement, subsidies, energy and green economic growth.

## KEY AREAS OF WORK AND ONGOING PROJECTS

**Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP):** IISD has advised a number of governments on the design and implementation of sustainable procurement policies, including India, South Africa, the United States, Canada (Province of Manitoba), Chile, Vietnam, Brazil, China, Abu Dhabi and Ghana. This work-stream is expanding in 2012 to examine the application of SPP within fragile states.

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPP):** Following a preliminary investigation in 2011 on PPPs as a vehicle for sustainable development, IISD is continuing research and activities in 2012 to inform the design and implementation of appropriate PPP policies that support the incorporation of environmental, social and economic safeguards.

**International Initiative on Procurement and Green Growth:** Launched in 2012 and supported by the Global Green Growth Forum and the Government of Denmark, IISD is leading this global, multistakeholder initiative to demonstrate procurement and PPP as an accelerator of green growth. The deliverables for 2012 include preliminary demonstration efforts in emerging economies, along with an investigation of, and the key performance indicators for, the tipping point at which public sector demand provides sufficient scaling for green innovation by the private sector.

The IISD-Europe program on sustainable procurement provides policy advisory and research services across two broad themes: procurement in both the public and private sectors and public-private partnerships. **Our approach** promotes “whole life value” or “value for money across the life cycle” by accounting for environmental, social and economic externalities inherent in procurement processes and decisions. **Our objective** is to support the design and implementation of procurement policies that scale up green industrial growth. When considering that public procurement in the European Union and United States accounts for 12–15 per cent of gross domestic product, and even more in lower-income countries, there is potential for governments to use its significant purchasing power to trigger markets for sustainable goods and services. Similarly, long-term, high-volume and government-guaranteed demand provides the perfect incentive for the private sector to invest in green technology and practices.

## KEY COMPETENCIES AND SKILLS

The IISD team is experienced in policy advisory services, policy research and analysis, project leadership and coordination, project management, communications and outreach. From its office in Geneva, IISD can successfully:

- Provide dedicated advisory services to policy-makers and the private sector on sustainable procurement and PPPs
- Manage complex research and stakeholder coordination projects in a timely and efficient manner
- Work with policy-makers, the private sector and civil society organizations in the implementation of dedicated policies
- Lead and coordinate multistakeholder work programs
- Develop and host multistakeholder roundtable discussions, workshops and training events
- Draw on a global network of associates and experts in established institutes and non-governmental organizations

## REPRESENTATION

- Global Green Growth Forum, Denmark
- DG Environment Green Public Procurement Expert Group, European Commission
- UNCITRAL Working Group on Procurement
- UNEP Marrakesh Task Force for Sustainable Public Procurement
- UNEP Sustainable Public Procurement Initiative
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO) working groups on the environment and social responsibility
- White House Environment Committee working group on sustainable procurement, United States
- World Economic Forum stakeholder group on purchasing and procurement

## KEY PUBLICATIONS

- *Harnessing the Power of Public–Private Partnerships: The role of hybrid financing strategies in sustainable development (2012)*
- *Procuring Green in the Public Sector: A checklist for getting started (2010)*
- *Life Cycle Costing in Sustainable Public Procurement: A Question of Value (2009)*

A full listing of publications can be found at [www.iisd.org/markets/procurement](http://www.iisd.org/markets/procurement)

## ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

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## Benefits from Sustainable Procurement (SP)

- SP prepares domestic enterprises to compete internationally on green and equitable technologies, products and services.
- The review and awareness of procurement procedures intrinsic to SP practices, including setting specifications, determining award criteria and drafting contracts, brings to light opportunities for time, efficiency and transparency improvements.
- Giving preference to green and social alternatives can realize costs savings and improve operating efficiency in the medium term.
- SP can spur sustainable design, as it provides direct incentives for the innovation and wider commercialization of green and social products. Markets for environmental services and technologies are on the rise, on average by 9–17 per cent per year.
- SP rewards sustainable enterprises by providing a consistent demand for sustainable goods and services. This enables businesses to realize economies of scale, reduce costs and plan an even wider distribution of sustainable alternatives.

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Visit the IISD Sustainable Public Procurement Program at <http://www.iisd.org/markets/procurement>

