



Low environmental impact printed materials

Metropolitan City of Rome Capital

Tender for printed materials produced from recycled paper (chlorine free) or from virgin fiber with the "chain of custody" certification

Benchmark (standard paper)

- 0.8 t CO₂e
- 0.2 toe energy consumption

GPP 2020 tender

- 0.4 t CO₂e
- 0.1 toe energy consumption

Results

- 0.4 t less CO₂e emissions
- 0.1 toe energy savings

Contract tendered

- The purchased printed materials encompass a large category of products (books, folders, business cards, etc).
- the tender has been realized through the “Electronic Market of the Public Administration” – MEPA – the digital market where authorized public administrations can buy, for values below the EU threshold, the goods and services offered by the authorized suppliers;
- the acquisition was realized by publishing a "purchase request" on MEPA and by inviting qualified suppliers to submit offers: 11 suppliers have been invited to tender;
- two companies presented their offers within the deadline;
- total value of the contract: € 21,000;

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Procurement Approach

The tendering process followed the restricted procedure, and it has been processed in a single lot:

Technical specifications	Award criteria
<p>The paper must be produced from wood fibers, recycled fibers or other cellulose fibers bleached without using chlorine gas (TFC-total chlorine-free). It is permitted to use recycled paper, virgin or mixed, with the following characteristics:</p> <p>Recycled paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The paper must consist in 100% recycled cellulose fibers. The mini-mum percentage of post-consumer recycled fibers should be $\geq 85\%$; - The pulp should be free of chlorine (Elementary Chlorine Free or Total Chlorine Free); <p>Verification:</p> <p>It is assumed that the product is conform if it possesses an eco-label awarded in respect of the above specifications, such as as "Der Blauer Engel". Other labels, such as "Nordic Ecolabelling", "European Ecolabel"; the labels "PEFC recycled" or "FSC recycled" are accepted as evidence, if they contain the specification that paper was made from 100% recycled fiber.</p> <p>Otherwise, the bidders must prove in the statements that accompany their offer that they fulfill all the technical specifications.</p> <p>Virgin paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The virgin fibers must come from responsibly managed forests or controlled sources with adequate documentation showing the steps of custody, i.e. certification of "chain of custody - CoC" Chain of Custody; - It is required the use of recyclable packaging and in any case not made from synthetic halogenated materials; 	<p>Lowest price.</p>

Verification:

Ecolabel (or equivalent) certification, PEFC or FSC will serve as evidence; a self-declared environmental claim that is compliant with ISO 14021 certifying the origin of the fibres from responsibly managed forests.
The bidders must prove in the statements that accompany their offer that they fulfil all the technical specifications.

Criteria development

The technical specifications of the tender were inspired by the Minimum Environmental Criteria elaborated by the Italian Ministry for Environment for copy paper. Focus of criteria was on the final products as the value of the contract and the restricted procedure via MEPA did not leave space for inclusion of criteria on the photocopying processes.



Results

All the supplied products respond to the required criteria for recycled paper.

	CO2 emissions	Energy consumption
Low emissions solution (recycled paper)	0.4 tons CO2e	0.1 toe
Benchmark (Standard paper)	0.8 tons CO2e	0.2 toe
Savings	0.4 tons CO2e	0.1 toe

Calculation basis

The amount of used molded products is equivalent to 0.54 tons of paper.

The Ecoinvent database provides data on CO2 emissions and energy consumption related to the two alternative production processes (recycled and virgin):

Unit	CO2 emissions	Energy consumption
1 kg of recycled paper	0.82 kg CO2 e	12.5 MJ
1 kg of virgin paper	1.55 kg CO2 e	20.2 MJ

The environmental benefits of recycled paper go beyond the lower CO2 emissions and lower energy consumption:

- recycling avoids the stage of incineration, as well as the environmental and economic consequences for the community;
- recycling reduces deforestation;

- recycled paper uses less water in the production phase compared to a virgin fiber product;
- chlorine is a toxic and highly polluting substance, used for bleaching wood pulp in paper production. The classic bleaching process causes contamination of the waste water, allowing pollutants to enter in the food chain of the living beings.

Lessons Learned

The inclusion of specific product requirements (described above) did not create any difficulties in obtaining offers.

There were no difficulties for the conformity check of the characteristics of the supplied products compared to the required criteria.



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About GPP 2020

GPP 2020 aims to mainstream low-carbon procurement across Europe in support of the EU's goals to achieve a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, a 20% increase in the share of renewable energy and a 20% increase in energy efficiency by 2020.

To this end, GPP 2020 will implement more than 100 low-carbon tenders, which will directly result in substantial CO₂ savings. Moreover, GPP 2020 is running a capacity building programme that includes trainings and exchange. – www.gpp2020.eu

About PRIMES



Across six countries in Europe; Denmark, Sweden, Latvia, Croatia, France and Italy, PRIMES project seeks to help municipalities overcome barriers in GPP processes, many of which lack capacity and knowledge.

PRIMES aims to develop basic skills and provide hands-on support for public purchasing organisations in order to overcome barriers and implement Green Public Purchasing. This will consequently result in energy savings and CO₂ reductions. – www.primes-eu.net



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