



## A4 Strengthening regional cooperation

### The Basque GPP Action Plans for Climate Protection and Economic Competitiveness

#### Ana Rebate

#### In charge of the Sustainable Consumption Department

Sustainable Consumption Department  
IHOBE (Basque Public Environmental Organisation)  
Alameda de Urquijo, 36-6<sup>a</sup>  
48014, Bilbao  
Spain

**Tel:** 0034.944230743  
**Fax:** 0034.944235900  
**e-mail:** ana.rebate@ihobe.net  
**www:** www.ihobe.net

**Organisation:** IHOBE (Basque Public Environmental Organisation)

**Short description:** IHOBE is a public organization that belongs to the Environmental Department of the Basque Government. These are its main functions:

#### Developing environmental knowledge

**Delivering environmental knowledge to public and private organizations through publications, training, services, awareness programs, etc**

At the moment 48 people are working at

## Summary of your Abstract

In the Basque Country the government has developed a Sustainable Consumption Plan. One of the objectives of the plan is to promote Green Purchasing. Green public purchasing will be the first step, and after that, private green purchasing will be promoted. Ihobe has been considered as a referent in establishing green purchasing criteria for several agents.

## Abstract

GPP was first and has been mainly implemented by local authorities. As the EU has acknowledged the importance of implementing GPP at EU level, many National governments have developed or are developing National GPP Action Plans. However, many of the National Plans have to do only with the central government or are not linked enough to the municipal context. In the Basque Government we believe that Regional Governments play also an important role in promoting GPP in local/ regional organisations, and in climate protection. That is why the Basque Government has developed and is implementing a GPP Regional Action Plan through Ihobe, the Publicly Owned Environmental Management Company.

Ihobe's contribution will focus on presenting the Basque GPP Regional Action Plan (GPP RAP) to show (with real results) how to fight climate change and promote local economy competitiveness, and thus, help other regions, provinces, networks or supra-municipal organisation set their own strategies.

Normal strategies focus only on public authorities (the demand side), setting targets, developing tools, etc. However, to really move the market, it is important to promote environmentally

friendlier companies and products as well (the offer side). What makes the Basque approach innovative is the combination of both dimensions in the GPP RAP.

The contribution will present: which elements are included in the GPP RAP and which are the most effective and highly valued; why they have been selected (analysing best practices); which product groups have been selected to start working with and how climate protection is included in each of them; how is the work organised with public authorities; how have companies been involved and which has been their response (good and bad results); how the Plan helps tackling climate change (with environmental indicators from real procurement practices during 2007 and 2008, since the beginning of the programme); and how local companies and economy are promoted.

It is relevant to show that climate protection can always be “achieved” with public procurement, no matter the product group you are working on (paper, ITC, vehicles, gardening services, catering and vending services, travel agencies and courier, consultancy...), like in the Basque Country.

The presentation will also highlight how the tools for public authorities in the Basque Country can also be used by other public authorities and also by private companies and the general public to move the market even more and reduce our impact on the environment.

During the workshop a kind of questionnaire will be used to start discussions, and we will work in groups to help participants identify the tools they would need for their own strategies and how to involve companies in the process, at all levels.

### **What is innovative or special about your contribution (max. 500)?**

The main innovative or special aspects of IHOBE's contribution are:

- To highlight the role and importance of Regional Governments in promoting GPP, and thus, tackle climate change (normally regional governments are under represented).
- To develop a coordinated strategy with the demand and supply side of the market (normally GPP plans focus only on the demand side-public authorities).
- To show the relation between almost any procurement activity and climate change, and how any action in GPP contributes to climate protection.
- To present real results/indicators of environmental relief through procurement.

To present how to promote, from the regional governments, the implementation of green purchasing not only in public administrations but also in private companies.

## **Résumé**

Ana Rebate is a chemist specialized in chemical engineering at the University of the Basque Country. At present she is in charge of the Sustainable Consumption-Green Purchasing Department at Ihobe (Environmental Public Organisation of the Basque Government) with more than 10 years of experience.

She is been responsible for the direction and coordination of several Environmental agreements between the Basque Government and strategic industrial sectors (cement, chemical, steel); the coordination of the Basque Sustainable Consumption Plan of the Basque Government and the presidency of the normalization group for the development of the UNE 15.301-ecodesign management system.

She has developed several manuals and she has taken part in many international environmental seminars and conferences.

Nowadays her responsibilities regarding sustainable consumption and green purchasing are:

- The programme for the implementation of green purchasing by local authorities, and Basque Governmental Departments.

Ihobe's task is to develop green purchasing criteria for public organizations like the previously mentioned "Basque Governmental agreement on sustainable contracting and purchasing".

This programme entails offering training for the purchasers within the local authorities and Basque Governmental Departments. Besides, we will offer a simple, personal and standardized service, after demand, to the purchasers who want to make their tenders greener.

The programme in 2009 will be addressed to the Basque Governmental Departments participating in the "Sustainable Consumption Plan", to over 200 Basque municipalities, with special attention to the bigger ones, and to other Departments interested in green purchasing.

- The programme for defining new green purchasing criteria for those products/services more used by the Basque Administration.

The first step of this programme will be to analyse what Basque public authorities demand, to decide which criteria to develop.

The second step will be to select experts who will develop those criteria. And finally, the criteria will be delivered to public authorities in 2010 through training and personal support.

- The publishing of GPP results as an exemplary work.

All the results of the GPP implementation programme will refer to the amount of CO<sub>2</sub>equivalent reduced and will be measured in Euros and tones. This will allow not only authorities but also consumers and companies to know how the Basque Government is working on GPP and trying to stimulate the rest of agents to act equally.

To sum up, Ihobe's work on green purchasing for public authorities in 2009 will consist of:

- Analysing the demand of the local and regional governments
- Analysing the more purchased products and services
- Developing criteria for the two previous aspects, and
- Delivering those criteria through training and a very simple personal support service to make tenders greener

#### **Recommended reading:** (books, articles, websites)

1. [www.lhobe.net](http://www.lhobe.net)
2. [www.productosostenible.net](http://www.productosostenible.net)

3. *Practical handbook for Green Purchase and Public Contracting. Models and examples for its implementation by the Basque civil service*
4. ([http://www.ihobe.net/Pags/AP/Ap\\_publicaciones/index.asp?Cod=22D00942-87EA-4D23-BF89-874E182F271F&hGrupo=PUB&hAno=2008&hTitulo=017](http://www.ihobe.net/Pags/AP/Ap_publicaciones/index.asp?Cod=22D00942-87EA-4D23-BF89-874E182F271F&hGrupo=PUB&hAno=2008&hTitulo=017))
5. *Basque Sustainable Consumption Plan* (2006-2010) (Agriculture, Fishing and food Department; Environmental and Land-use Planning Department, Industry Commerce and Tourism Department, Economical Affairs Department; Education Department)
6. *Youth for change* ( IHOBE, Industry, Commerce and Tourism Department, UNEP)
7. *Environmental labelling of the product. Guide of environmental criteria for the improvement of the product.*  
([http://www.ihobe.net/Pags/AP/Ap\\_publicaciones/index.asp?Cod=22D00942-87EA-4D23-BF89-874E182F271F&hGrupo=PUB&hAno=2008&hTitulo=016](http://www.ihobe.net/Pags/AP/Ap_publicaciones/index.asp?Cod=22D00942-87EA-4D23-BF89-874E182F271F&hGrupo=PUB&hAno=2008&hTitulo=016))
8. *Governmental Agreement for Sustainable Purchasing.* 2008 (Basque Government)

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**Conference organisers:** ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with the City of Reykjavik

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