



New Policy for Ecolabelled Procurement in the City of Copenhagen



CITY OF COPENHAGEN
The Technical and Environmental Administration

Ecolabelling
Denmark



Ecolabels in the City of Copenhagen

In October 2017, the City of Copenhagen adopted an ecolabel procurement policy. Taking into account the provisions of the Danish Public Procurement Act, the city will now give preference to products bearing the Nordic Swan Ecolabel or EU Ecolabel in connection with purchases where the availability of ecolabelled products ensures competition in the procurement process. At present, the decision impacts 24 product and service areas with an annual spend of DKK 300m. The City of Copenhagen makes framework agreements in some of these areas, while others are covered by framework agreements made by SKI (the Central Public Purchasing Body in Denmark).

How will the new policy be implemented?

The policy will be implemented gradually in connection with individual tenders. A procurement agreement usually runs for two years with the option of two 12-month extensions. This means that it may take up to four years before the policy is fully implemented in all relevant agreements.

Some of the existing procurement agreements already allow for the purchase of ecolabelled products, in which case the decision can be implemented as long as it does not significantly increase the cost of these purchases. Other procurement agreements are currently being examined to determine the legal and economic feasibility of updating the product range to include ecolabelled products.

Increased market engagement

The City of Copenhagen and Ecolabelling Denmark with assistance from the Central Public Purchasing Body in Denmark – SKI – will engage in a market dialogue aiming to increase the supply of ecolabelled products within selected areas. These market engagement efforts will target two to four focus areas each year, starting with toys and office furniture in 2018.



The Nordic Swan Ecolabel and the EU Ecolabel

The Nordic Swan Ecolabel and the EU Ecolabel make it easy to choose among the environmentally best products and services. The ecolabels aim to reduce the overall environmental impact of our consumption by assessing the whole life cycle of a product and its environmental impact along the way – for the benefit of people, the environment and the planet's resources.

Why choose ecolabelled products?

The ecolabels help the City of Copenhagen realise its visions and goals for the environment and climate, as outlined in the city's "CPH Climate Plan 2025" and "Resource and Waste Management Plan".



Categorisation of procurement areas, based on the availability of ecolabelled products (as of June 2018)

The overview only covers procurement areas in which criteria have been developed for certification with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel or the EU Ecolabel. The two tables below list product categories that may comprise a number of products or a single product.

Category 1: Many products with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel or EU Ecolabel

Category 2: Several products with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel or EU Ecolabel

Category 3: Few products with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel or EU Ecolabel

Category 4: No products with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel or EU Ecolabel

Table 1: Procurement areas under SKI framework agreements

Category 1		Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleaning Products - Diapers - Textile Services - Dishwasher detergents and rinsing agents - Laundry detergents for professional use - Hand Dishwashing Detergents - Dishwasher detergents - Dishwasher detergents for professional use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supplies for microfibre based cleaning - Laundry detergents and stain removers - Printed matters, envelopes and other converted paper products - Copy and printing paper - Tissue paper, kitchen roll, napkins, paper towels etc. - Primary batteries - Sanitary products - Cosmetic products - Imaging equipment (copy- and multifunction printers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - De-icers - Candles - Grease-proof paper for food and baking - Night diapers 17-57 kg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Office supplies - Office furniture - TVs and Projectors - Recycled OEM Toner cartridges (with purchase of printers and including service agreement) - Disposables for food (plates, bowls, freezer bags, trays and disposables cups) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal computers, PCs and tablets - Appliances

Table 2: Other procurement areas

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal care products - Children's diapers (apart from night diapers 17-57 kg.) - Children's and baby care products (incl. cosmetic and sanitary products) - Cleaning services - Laundry services - Car and boat care products - Construction and facade panels - Ceiling systems and wall panels - Floors and floor coverings - Paint - Glue - Filler and sealants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cotton clothing (100% cotton T-shirts, socks and underwear) - Night diapers 17-57 kg. - Liquid and gaseous fuels - Rechargeable batteries - Lubricants - Dry cleaning services - Dishwashing detergents for use in industrial and institutional automatic dishwashers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hobby supplies - Hotels, restaurants, conference facilities and tourist accommodation services etc. - Shoes and other footwear - Clothes and textiles (workwear) - Growing media, soil improvers and mulch - Machines for parks and gardens - Furniture and fitments - Recycled OEM toner cartridges - Toys - Mattresses for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coffee services - Compost bins - Textiles, hides/skins and leather - Outdoor furniture and playground equipment



About the categorisation of procurement areas

Criteria have been developed for the Nordic Swan Ecolabel and the EU Ecolabel within many procurement areas that are relevant to the City of Copenhagen.

A single procurement agreement with the City of Copenhagen may cover a number of these procurement areas. The City of Copenhagen has prepared a categorisation of the procurement areas where it is currently possible to obtain certification with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel or EU Ecolabel. This categorisation is dynamic and should be seen as a snapshot of the present moment, as the market for ecolabelled products is constantly evolving.

Special requirements for construction and civil engineering projects

The City of Copenhagen has adopted a special set of requirements for construction and civil engineering projects, as described in the publication “Environment in Construction and Civil Engineering Projects”.

The latest revision of this publication requires suppliers to use building materials with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in the following categories: Construction panels, Ceiling systems and Wall panels, Floors and Floor coverings, Paint, Glue, Filler and Sealants. However, these requirements can be waived if no suitable ecolabelled products are available due to the limited supply of ecolabelled building materials.

Canteen operation

The City of Copenhagen does not require its canteens to obtain a Nordic Swan Ecolabel certification because the city already has a very high usage of organic foods (87%, with a goal of 90%), and works in many of the same areas covered by the requirements for ecolabelled canteens, e.g. days when meat is not served and limiting food waste.

Would you like to learn more?

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