

The EKU Newsletter

Number 7 – 2006

The year 2006 started very positive for the EKU as the government decided to extend our budget. To increase the working pace of develop the criteria we have chosen to find two consultants by procurement who will assist us in updating the EKU criteria within the vehicle sector and to develop energy requirements for the white- and brown good as well as for lighting products. In addition, we will increase our working staff and are currently in the process of recruiting a project manager to the EKU.

Assigned by the government, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has developed a proposal for *a national plan of action for environmentally adapted public procurement*. It has been presented to the Ministry of Sustainable Development and also been treated for consideration. A final decision about the plan of action is expected during summer/fall. Invigorated by this, we can conclude that the future looks unusually bright for environmentally adapted procurements: more product segments will be covered by the EKU at the same time as there will be an increased investment in education and information.

We hope you already have noticed that the food product criteria already have been publicised on the website!

Newsletter Content

- Education
- Developing the EKU Criteria
- The EKU Network
- International
- Work in Progress by the Procurement Commission
- Projects

Education

An EKU education includes a thorough run-through of the conditions for environmental requirements in public procurements, a run-through of the EKU instrument and is ended with a work shop. We offer two different education alternatives:

Alternative 1 For single persons the EKU offers the education at our own facilities in Stockholm, (Swedish Environmental Management Council, (SEMC), Vasagatan 15-17). During the fall of 2006 the education will be held on **Thursday, 14th of September between 9.30-16.00**. Register by E-Mail, (see addresses below), before the 1st of September. Participation fee: 2500 SEK / person, includes course literature, “Miljöledning vid upphandling och inköp”, (Environmental Management by Procurement and Purchase), other documentation, lunch and coffee. The course will only be given if sufficiently many register.

Alternative 2 For groups, the education can be held on location in each municipality, county council or other organisation etc. Contact us for a suggestion of educational content and price estimate, (half day or whole day). Suitable group size is 20-25 people. The local organiser

provides the facilities and any refreshments. Feel free to join together with other municipalities etc.

Read more at www.eku.nu/edu/index.asp

Developing the EKU Criteria

The criteria which have been developed are available at www.eku.nu, together with the connecting motive and fact documents. For some product segments, new criteria are being developed and revised and are described below:

Food Products

Now all the EKU material for food products have been completed and published! It contains several criteria documents for the most important, main groups of food products being procured by the public and private sector: animal products, dairy products, fish and shell food, fruit and vegetables, cereal products and coffee. In addition, there are criteria for the distribution, (i.e. delivery of food products), meal services and packaging as well as some fact sheets that give in-depth information about ecological products and what different quality and certification systems that are used in the food product industry.

Certain forms for information for food products and distribution have also been developed and for meal services and quality assurance there are special forms for follow-ups.

The food product criteria are available for two alternatives: ecological products and conventional products respectively. To what extent, and what products are to be demanded as ecological is for the procurer to decide – Please read more in the fact sheet “Vägledning om ekologiska produkter”, (Guidance for Ecological Products).

Responsible: Charlotta Frenander

Paper

The criteria have been treated for consideration and a response will be discussed at the working group's next meeting on the 3rd of April. The criteria is planned to be published in the end of May, 2006.

Responsible: Peter Nohrstedt

Textile and Leather

New, revised criteria have been publicised in March, 2006. New features are that two different levels, different alternatives, are offered: first the basic requirements and second, stricter requirements at the same level as the environmental labelling criteria for textiles. The procurer can specify what products or what collection shall meet the stricter requirements.

Responsible: Charlotta Frenander

Furniture

A revision of the furniture criteria has begun this winter and the first suggestions are beginning to take form. We will focus on the product's technical quality and sustainability, on materials and contents of hazardous substances and on reparability and waste management. A consideration is expected to be ready to send out by the summer/fall of 2006.

Construction

Suggestions for qualifying requirements for house building contractors have been developed by the work group and will be taken into consideration this spring. The aim is to publish the environment criteria by the end of June, 2006. The work will then continue by developing specific criteria for the projecting, building and the transfer. The working group has developed a document with a compilation of, and links to, tools which can be used in connection with the evaluation of environmental properties in building materials can influence the environmental aspects for a building contractors. See

<http://www.eku.nu/criterion/criterion.asp?critId=84>

Responsible: Peter Nohrstedt

Products in Health and Medical Service

Suggestions for EKU criteria in health care products have been developed for four product segments:

- EKG, defibrillators and diathermy equipment, accessory products and disposables
- Medical gloves
- Bandage Material
- Incontinence - and urology articles, including diapers

The suggestions are expected to be ready for publication on our website in June/July. For each product segment, a background document is available which among other things gives a picture of what health and environmental effects the product is connected to during its life cycle. In general, the health aspects are very important for products used in health care. Most disposable products in health care are made of various plastic materials. The working group has discussed different types of additives and pollutions in the plastic material, for example various kinds of phthalates that are used in PVC-plastic. Parallel to the working group a committee has worked on developing background documents for the plastics additives in close cooperation with the plastics and chemical industry and Plastics Europe.

Responsible: Kristina Mårtensson

The EKU Network

Join our network! There you can receive tips and advice from other colleagues in the country regarding environmental requirements for any specific product segment, but also to inform each other on news or interesting activities, projects etc. The network is intended to create an open and easily accessible form of communication between procurers and others that want to set environmental requirements in public procurements. NOTE: the network is only open for public procurers!

Join here: www.eku.nu/network/

International

The interest in “Green Public Procurement” is increasing around the world. Conferences, seminars and projects are being arranged and the Swedish Environmental Management Council is often being asked to participate and, specifically, present the use of the EKU-instrument. The main international events coming up where we will participate are:

- **Graz, Austria 3-4 April** – Green Public Procurement, Turning policy into practice!

- **Barcelona, Spain 20-22 September** – EcoProcura 2006, Practical Solutions for Sustainable Procurement!

Work In Progress by the Procurement Commission - A New Public Procurement Act (LOU)

In accordance to the commission's mission, (directive 2004:47), environmental and social concerns are to be well integrated into the proposition of new legislations for public procurements. In addition, the commission was to conduct an in-dept analysis of the possibility of including regulations that states that the procurement conducting public office or entity should demand green adaptation or social requirements; and that other entities by law must consider these aspects in a procurement process. There are already similar regulations in some countries, Norway and Denmark among others, and in several countries the process of including environmental considerations in procurement is being done by new legislations or other regulations. The SEMC have a representative in the commission's reference group, (*Charlotta Frenander*).

An interim report has just been published, "Nya Upphandlingsregler SOU 2006:28", (New Procurement Rules). A proposition is expected to come out in spring/summer of 2006, and a new law is to come in force at the turn of the year 06/07.

Current Projects

LEAP – Local Environmental Management Systems and Procurement

The SEMC are participating in this EU project by developing instruments and guidelines for implementing Environmental Management Systems in purchase organisations and by supplying a number of "Standard Specifications" for a number of selected product segments.

Read more on the official project website: www.iclei-europe.org/?leap

Certificates for Environmental Performance for Public Procurement

The commission that the SEMC together with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Agency for Public Management are funding and performed by the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute is now in its final stage. A closing seminar will be held on the 25th of April. Details on the time and place will be available on the EKU website soon. The report is planned to be finished by the summer of 2006.

Contact us at the EKU!

Peter Nohrstedt 08-700 66 93, 070-666 52 37
Charlotta Frenander 08-700 66 94, 070-658 02 14

peter@eku.nu
charlotta@eku.nu