

Short title: Green procurement

Extended title: Green Procurement: Driving Innovation and Sustainability in the Public Sector.

Green procurement has gained increasing political prominence in recent years. The global imperative for sustainable development has triggered a paradigm shift towards adopting green, circular, and sustainable approaches in procurement processes. From a governmental standpoint, public procurement is recognized as playing a crucial role in addressing diverse societal challenges, particularly in facilitating the transition to green practices. A recent suggested review of the Public Procurement Act in Norway emphasizes the pivotal role of public procurement as a catalyst for the green transition. Notably, in Norway, the public sector allocates approximately NOK 740 billion to public procurement, constituting roughly 40% of the state budget. Consequently, public procurement stands as a significant economic activity for the government, creating strong incentives for suppliers to align their business models with environmentally friendly practices.

Green procurement serves as a comprehensive framework that includes sustainable procurement, climate- and environmentally-friendly procurement, and circular procurement. To successfully navigate the transition towards a more sustainable future, the role of green innovation becomes pivotal in the advancement of enhanced products. When establishing key terms for the development of a research proposal, we can define green public procurement as the practice aimed at mitigating environmental impacts (Rainville, 2017). Concurrently, green innovation is characterized by the creation of new or significantly improved products, services, or processes that address environmental challenges (see, for instance, Schiederig et al., 2012).

When considering green procurement, it is beneficial to commence by conducting an in-depth overview of the procurement process. This should encompass key elements such as the procurement strategy, leadership dynamics, mindset and organizational culture, as well as available resources and competencies. Additionally, it is essential to delve into the supplier aspect, posing a critical question: How do suppliers respond to a public procurement policy that encourages them to explore green and innovative business models? Understanding this facet is crucial for comprehensively grasping the impact of green procurement.

To facilitate the development of a robust research proposal, we offer a curated selection of relevant references as an initial point of reference. These resources will serve to enrich the proposal and provide a solid foundation for exploring the intricate dimensions of green procurement.

#### **Some references related to the field.**

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