

# Procurement for the maintenance of green public areas

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Experiences from thematic group on  
sustainable procurement

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21/8-2018

# NIRAS

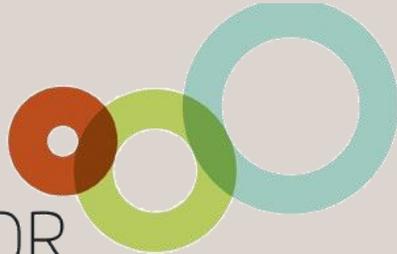
2200 experts,

Consultancy services within...

- GIS, Geodata and Automation
- Infrastructures and building
- Climate adaptation and urban planning
- Water, environment and nature
- Sustainable transition



# Green Procurement in Denmark



FORUM FOR  
BÆREDYGTIGE INDKØB

(Eng: Forum for sustainable procurement)

- Knowledge sheering
- Thematic groups
- Conferences
- Newsletter on sustainable procurement



(Eng: Partnership for Green Public Procurement)

- 20% of public sector represented
- Binding green procurement goals for 12 procurement areas

Head of Secretariat:

**NIRÅS**

Project Owner:



**Ministry of Environment  
and Food of Denmark**

Environmental  
Protection Agency

# Thematic group on maintenance of green areas

## Format:

- Four events from 2017 to 2018
- Four hours meeting with a combination of inspirational presentations

## Participants:

Mix of actors:

- Suppliers (gardener service, machinery dealer, nursery, contractors...)
- Public and private organization who procure park service (purchasers)
- Professionals and specialist (Consultants, scientist)
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# Themes for events

## 1. Meeting

- Uncover needs and lack of knowledge

## 2. Meeting

- Workshop on barriers and solutions for sustainable criterias in tenders

## 3. Meeting

- Display of methods and equipment (mainly weed control)

## 4. Meeting

- Inspirational presentations, discussions and wrap up



# Key takeaways (1)

- Interdisciplinary approach
  - Public purchasers drive the innovation and the branches has the necessary knowledge
  - Market dialog before tendering or use of Public–private partnerships tenders
- Knowledge gaps:
  - Missing unbiased comparative key figures on environmental performance and the ability to compare different impact categories
  - Missing common language

# Key takeaways (2)

## **Recommendations for purchasers (selected)**

- Engage in dialog with the market
- Weight quality and environment over lowest price
- Citizen and user involvement is important prior to the tendering
- Use recycled water
- Use new technologies e.g. steam or hot water for weed control
- Use plant based fuel
- Use specialised subcontractors and demand professional employees

# Key takeaways (expanded)

The following recommendations are not verified or approved by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency but are the outcome of the discussion in the thematic group on sustainable maintenance of green areas. The following text is a draft.

## Recommendations regarding the initial phase prior to the tender:

- **Engage in a market dialogue.** Before you start writing your invitation to tender, you should engage in a full or semi-structured market dialogue. It's absolutely essential to learn about how the market itself suggests to reduce the environmental impacts. [Read more about market dialogue here \[DK text\]](#).
- **Send your tender material in consultation.** In the industry consultation specifically request amendments that may reduce environmental impacts.
- **Form of tender.** Make use of the most advantageous offer instead of the offer with the lowest price and award extra points for environmental initiatives. *Copenhagen Municipality* and *Local Government Denmark* [KL] award in this way environmental impacts with 25 % in their tender materials for operation of green areas. *Copenhagen Municipality* requests the suppliers to provide a description of measures to improve the environment, which make be part of the evaluation.
- **User involvement.** Citizen and user involvement is important prior to the tendering. Map and understand the use of the area and obtain the users' input. Maybe it will turn out that there is a wish is for more wild nature with low operational needs and environmental impacts.
- **Collaboration with the building and construction department.** Close collaboration can ensure that operational experiences are incorporated into new construction projects.

## Recommendation to environmental requirements in the tender:

The following points can be used as minimum requirements, if the market dialogue detects that part of the market can deliver the requested. If it is uncertain how big a share of the market can comply with the requirement, you can choose to present the requirement as a weighted allocation criterion.

- **Water use.** Request the use of recycled water/secunda water for hot water treatment, watering and washing of machines.

- **Pesticides.** In general, the use of pesticides has many negative consequences for the environment. It is today possible to run all activities during establishment and operation of green areas without use of pesticides. *Local Government Denmark* [KL] and the *Danish EPA* have agreed to phase out the use of pesticides. If there is a wish for using pesticides, request that the pesticides have a short decomposition time and that the pesticides are used only where there is weed, using sensor technology. You should further request that the pesticide treatment is carried out when most effectfull (at germination), and that the pesticide treatment is combined with other sorts of treatment.
- **Propellants.** Diesel consumption from the operation of green areas has the biggest single environmental impact. Request the use of alternative propellants, for instance electricity for tools, machines and vehicles. The market may not be in a position to deliver today, and then it becomes important to make this point a criteria that is awarded in the tender evaluation. When requesting electricity as a propellant, also request the supplier for solar cells for recharging. If electricity is not possible as a propellant, request 2<sup>nd</sup> generation bio fuel.
- **Need for quality.** Consider basing your tender on [Quality description for the operation of green areas \[DK text\]](#), but consider carefully which quality is needed. Choosing nature grass instead of lawn grass will imply lower operation costs and lower environmental impacts. As another example, it may not be necessary that a hedge is made out of only one plant species. Or consider the location in terms of allowed amounts of weed. A more wild nature reduces the operational environmental impacts and helps improving the biodiversity.
- **Heating water for weed control.** Request that the supplier collaborates with the local district heating company regarding refueling of hot water when using thermal treatment of weed. Thereby the diesel consumption for heating of water can be reduced.
- **Request state-of-the-art technology.** Using automation, robots and sensor technology for thermal treatment can result in environmental benefits.
- **Target the tender to specialised subcontractors** (in Danish fagentreprise) or request trained professionals. If the appropriate professionals handle the assignment, you can expect sparring and knowledge about differentiated and optimum care as well as knowledge about plants in relation to optimum care throughout the year. Arrange for a continuous dialogue with the supplier, for instance in monthly status meetings.

# More information and contact

## Links



FORUM FOR  
BÆREDYGTIGE INDKØB

(in Danish)

<http://www.ansvarligeindkob.dk/>



(in Danish)

<http://www.gronneindkob.dk/>

## Contact information



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