

THE SWEDISH
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL





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THE SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (MSR)

MSR contributes to a sustainable development by supporting companies and public organizations so that their environmental management work can be carried out in a strategically and cost efficient way. MSR offers guidance in the field of green public procurement (GPP), environmental management and the use of environmentally related product information.

MSR was formed in 1995 and is a company owned jointly by the the Swedish Government, the Confederation of Swedish Enterprises and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. The Swedish Government and the owners have assigned MSR the administration of three tools – MSR GPP criteria, the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and Environmental Product Declarations (EPD).



GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT (GPP)

Today, public procurement in Sweden comprises around 450 billion Swedish crowns each year. When adding the value of procurement also within the private sector, the sum rises to around three times that amount. If relevant environmental requirements were imposed on all procurement processes, much of the environmental impact from goods and services could be avoided. MSR develops criteria for GPP and contributes with information and guidance within that subject area of expertise. The criteria are updated when considered needed in order to adapt to the technical development on the market.

MSR:s GPP criteria consist of proposals for environmental requirements to be used when purchasing goods and services, for example within transportation, provisions, construction and medical services. The overall objective of the criteria is to help purchasers increase the use of environmental requirements in procurement. MSR also focuses on giving support and guidance to contractors who respond to environmental requirements in tender documents, since they

provide examples of the kind of requirements which might be brought up in larger procurements in the future.

MSR also develop spearhead criteria in order to stimulate technical innovations. These can be used by purchasers wishing to take an additional step towards sustainable development. MSR:s GPP criteria have gained acceptance in broad stakeholder groups and have been reviewed from an environmental, legal and practical perspective.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

EMAS is the European voluntary Eco Management and Audit Scheme. building on ISO 14001. It aims to improve and make environmental work in corporations and organizations more efficient, and to provide the market with reliable reports regarding the results of their management work by presenting it as reviewed and approved environmental declarations.

A greater EMAS uptake of the market has many advantages in organisations, both internally and externally. The external advantages with an EMAS–registration deal mainly with the markets positive attitude towards corporations who take a large responsibility for its environmental work and concurrently work to spread information about this to a broad target group. Another external advantage with an EMAS registration is that it should lead to simpler and more cost-efficient relations with enforcement authorities.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATIONS

Environmental Product Declarations (EPD:s) is an information system which describes the environmental performance of products and services in a scientifically sound, objective and quality-assured way. One of the most important areas of use of EPDs is as background materials and verification within GPP.

The EPD®system was initiated by the business sector in Sweden. The system has gained support by the Swedish Government and has gradually been converted into an international system for reliable, comparable information about environmental performance of goods and services. The system follows the principles for so-called Type III environmental declarations in accordance with ISO 14025.





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