

GPPT information Session

September 24, 2024

Question & Answer Session

The questions listed below were asked during a hybrid information session delivered on September 24, 2024 and are being shared with session participants.

Q1. Ecomedes has recently launched an Embodied Carbon Module, which appears to calculate the carbon footprints of products in its database. Will that information be included in the attributes of products in the GPPT database?

A1. Yes, carbon footprint data will be available as a search filter in the GPPT database when suppliers make that information available.

Q2. Will products and categories with hazardous substances, other than cleaners, be included in the GPPT?

A2. Chemicals that are deemed to be toxic are regulated in Canada under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, including chemicals in products. No products with hazardous substances should be available on the Canadian market. Regulatory compliance is a condition of all PSPC procurements. The GPPT includes certifications which communicate environmental and human health performance attributes that are beyond what is required by regulation. Some of the certifications and filters associated with chemicals of lesser concern which are included in the U.S. version of the GPPT are Safer Choice, and PFAS-addressed.

Q3. Will textiles be included in the GPPT?

A3. While some textiles are included in the GPPT, PSPC is considering the addition of the apparel, clothing and textiles category for a future (beyond 2026) iteration of the tool.

Q4. Has there been any consideration to product packaging in the SFTool or in the GPPT? For example, many of the products listed are delivered in some form of "packaging" which, depending on where you live, may be disposed of in different ways (Regular Waste, Recycling, Compostables). Can this work be leveraged to encourage suppliers to consider low to zero packaging options for consumers, especially the Federal Government?

A4. Yes packaging is considered in the SFTool and the GPPT. For example, PSPC has recently implemented the [Standard Language on Environmentally Preferable Packaging \(Policy Notification 158\)](#), which requires goods procurements to include optional or mandatory language requiring packaging to be returnable, reusable or recyclable. As data from this requirement becomes available it will be added to the GPPT.

Q5. How can the GPPT be used for procurements related to new or refurbished buildings?

A5. The GPPT can be used as a research tool for technical authorities from all departments and agencies as well as suppliers to confirm availability of green labels, standards and certifications for the types of materials required in a building specification. Projects can also be created in the platform which allows users to aggregate the impacts and cost savings associated with their project's component project choices.

Q6. During the presentation, CIC indicated that some attributes of the supplier's organization (vs. product categories) might be included in the database (e.g. Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) or EcoVadis ratings). Could you please elaborate on this functionality?

A6. The ecomedes database is one comprised primarily of products, and the certifications associated with those products and their manufacture. Some firm or organization-level certifications are also relevant for environmentally preferable procurement, e.g. corporate greenhouse gas disclosure. PSPC is including Net Zero Challenge data in the GPPT for example. Firm level sustainability data will be added to augment the existing product level information as/when reliable and automated data sources become available.

Q7. Will the tool include data and products for the Information Technology Communication (ICT) procurements for the Government which would also be helpful for other government departments (OGDs)?

A7. Yes, IT Goods, including information technology and communication and office electronics, is one of the categories being included in the GPPT. We welcome input from all stakeholders involved in the procurement of this category.

Q8. Clicking on the "contact manufacturer" option on the product page takes the user to a form to fill out user information. What happens to this information? Who is it sent to?

A8. Manufacturer contact information is usually available on the project details page. The information collected through this form is not consistently sent to the manufacturer and so we are removing this button from the Canadian version of the interface.

Q9. How will the standing offer and supply arrangement (SOSA) procurement process be incorporated into the tool? The product data appears to be based on manufacturers. As a reseller on a Government of Canada Standing Offer/Supply Arrangement, will the GPPT also include a filter or otherwise allow users to view resellers with active SOSAs?

A9. As SOSAs are updated, PSPC buyers can use the tool to update the environmental considerations. PSPC is also considering how to include an active SOSA filter in the GPPT. We have also included a task in the PSPC electronic procurement solution (EPS-SAP-ARIBA) for Buyers/Clients to check the GPPT for goods procurements.

Q10. Will users be able to add a product review to the tool?

A10. The functionality exists to enable adding product reviews. However, we would need to build in a validation process to ensure comments are accurate and from a trusted source, and determine whether they would be viewable by the general public or by government users. We would also need to ensure that this process and functionality does not impede the fairness, openness, transparency of the procurement process.

Q11. Will the implementation of the tool include additional guidance on how to integrate "green" criteria into the procurement process?

A11. Additional guidance in this area will be provided through an update to the environmental considerations content in the Supply Manual. In the meantime refer to the Green Procurement website: [Green procurement tools - Canada.ca](https://www.greenprocurementtools.ca).

Q12. Definitions of sustainable procurement often include both product and supplier environmental performance. Will supplier performance be a filter in the GPPT?

A12. Yes, elements of supplier performance will be included in the GPPT. See Question 6.

Q13. Does the Finishes category include floor sealers such as wood floor sealers?

A13. Yes, please consult the ecomedes database.

Q14. When will the French version of the GPPT be available.

A14. PSPC and ecomedes are building the French URL in the third year of the pilot, 2025-2026.

Q15. For furniture decommissioning, “End of Life” is a big issue – will divestment and disposal be part of the GPPT?

A15. Purchasing from existing surplus crown assets before buying new is an important part of environmentally preferable purchasing. GCSurplus and GCTransfer have catalogues of surplus government assets available. Many of the certifications on newer products include waste and end of life considerations, e.g. cradle to cradle. In addition, some manufacturers have take back programs that can be leveraged. If available, ecomedes will include data for manufacturers who offer these programs.

For more information visit the following websites:

- [Green procurement tools - Canada.ca](https://www.greenprocurementtools.ca)
- [Product Search | Canada \(ecomedes.com\)](https://www.ecomedes.com)
- [About Us - Buying the Future You Want \(circularprocurement.ca\)](https://www.circularprocurement.ca)
- [Stakeholder Engagement: Public Services and Procurement Canada \(PSPC\)'s Green Products Database Pilot Project](#)
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