



CO₂ PERFORMANCE LADDER

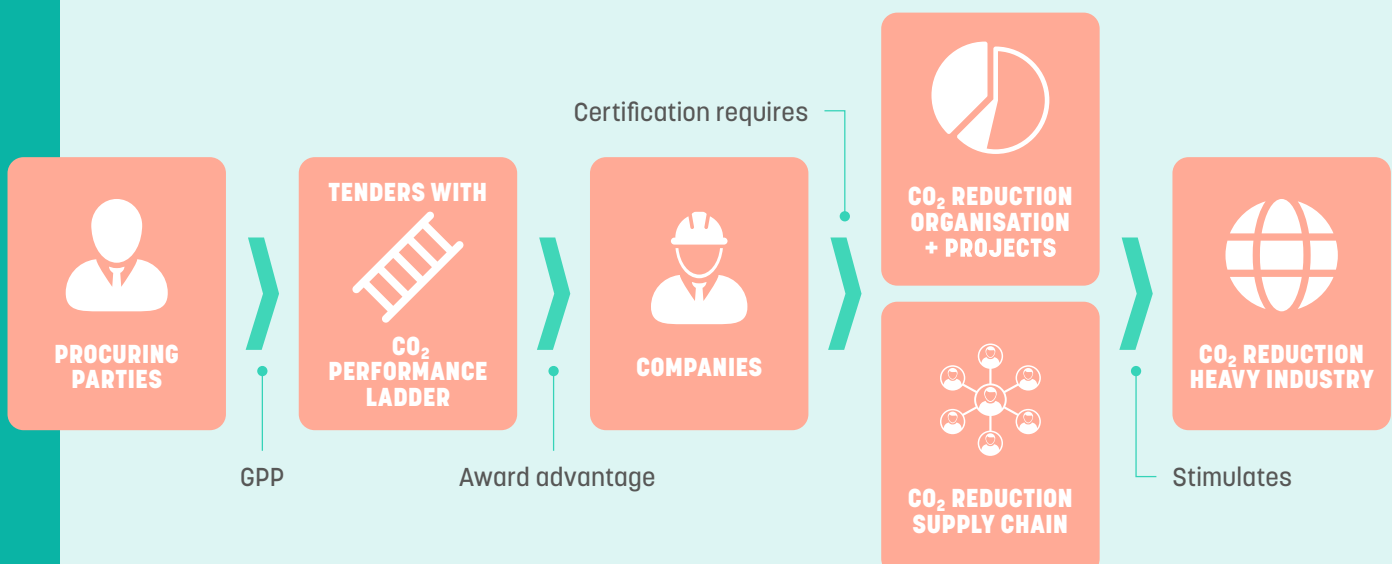
GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT WITH THE CO₂ PERFORMANCE LADDER

Green public procurement (which accounts for 15% of carbon emissions globally) is a driver of decarbonisation, innovation and commercialization of low-carbon infrastructure, goods and services.

The CO₂ Performance Ladder is a GPP tool that uses the 'Power of Procurement' to drive change by stimulating structural CO₂ reduction through the implementation of an effective CO₂ management system.

It is an optional tool in the tendering process, whereby CO₂ reduction is rewarded with an award advantage for

the bidding companies. The higher the ambition level of the company, the higher the award advantage. **Over 200** public procuring agencies in the Netherlands and Belgium (e.g. ministries and municipalities) are currently using the CO₂ Performance Ladder in their tendering processes. These tenders stimulated **over 4.000 organizations (75 % SMEs)** to implement a carbon management system and to get certified on the CO₂ Performance Ladder.



ADVANTAGES FOR PROCURING AGENCIES

- Proven methodology: the CO₂ Performance Ladder is the standard GPP tool in the Netherlands and Belgium.
- The CO₂ Performance Ladder is user-friendly, and has low transaction costs for getting started. Procuring authorities simply give companies the possibility to submit a form along with their bid, attesting to their proposed level of commitment on the Ladder;
- It requires 3rd party accreditation, which lowers the burden on procurement authorities to verify that companies are doing what they say they will do on their bids; and
- The CO₂ Performance Ladder has been developed and used in compliance with the EU Procurement Directive, making it immediately applicable in other EU countries.

ADVANTAGES FOR COMPANIES

- Green business case: award & competitive advantage in tenders
- The CO₂ Performance Ladder is proven to be effective at structural carbon reduction. Organisations certified on the Ladder reduce their emissions twice as fast as the average.
- Getting certified reinforces businesses' market position as a sustainable supplier, and helps them to improve their products and services through innovation.
- The Ladder follows the one tool one language principle – meaning a certificate can be used for all projects for all contracting authorities using the Ladder in their procurement, whether local, regional, national or international.

THE CO₂ PERFORMANCE LADDER IN EUROPE

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

For the last thirteen years, the **CO₂ Performance Ladder** [↗](#) has been responsible for a significant reduction of companies' and governments' CO₂ emissions in the Netherlands and Belgium. Due to increasing international interest (including a pilot project in Belgium), the Foundation for Climate Friendly Procurement and Business (SKAO), together with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), is investigating the feasibility of the CO₂ Performance Ladder in several European countries. This project is supported by the IKEA Foundation. The project, Accelerating carbon emissions reduction through the power of procurement, by dissemination of the CO₂ Performance Ladder in Europe project (CO₂PLEU), researches the possibilities to extend the use of this best practice

instrument, towards a Europe wide dissemination. In this way the CO₂ Performance Ladder can boost green public procurement and CO₂ reduction even further.

- First, a **quick scan** was conducted, looking at countries, regions and buyers groups, resulting in an **overview of the Green Public Procurement situation** [↗](#) – and **the opportunities** [↗](#) – across Europe.
- The results of the quick scan feed into the next stage: the **feasibility study**, which researches the potential for piloting the Ladder in 10 countries in more depth (see map below), via interviews and focus groups with local stakeholders.
- The feasibility study aims to obtain **expressions of interest** from local parties to set up pilot projects implementing the Ladder.

- **Lessons learned** from the twelve year history of the CO₂ Performance Ladder in the Netherlands, and the current pilot in Belgium, are being collected in order to provide important insight for potential new initiatives.
- As part of the project, care will be taken to align with broader international developments such as **the European Green Deal** [↗](#), including by building contacts at European level.
- The project runs for 1.5 years, from August 2021 to January 2023.

PROJECT PARTNERS

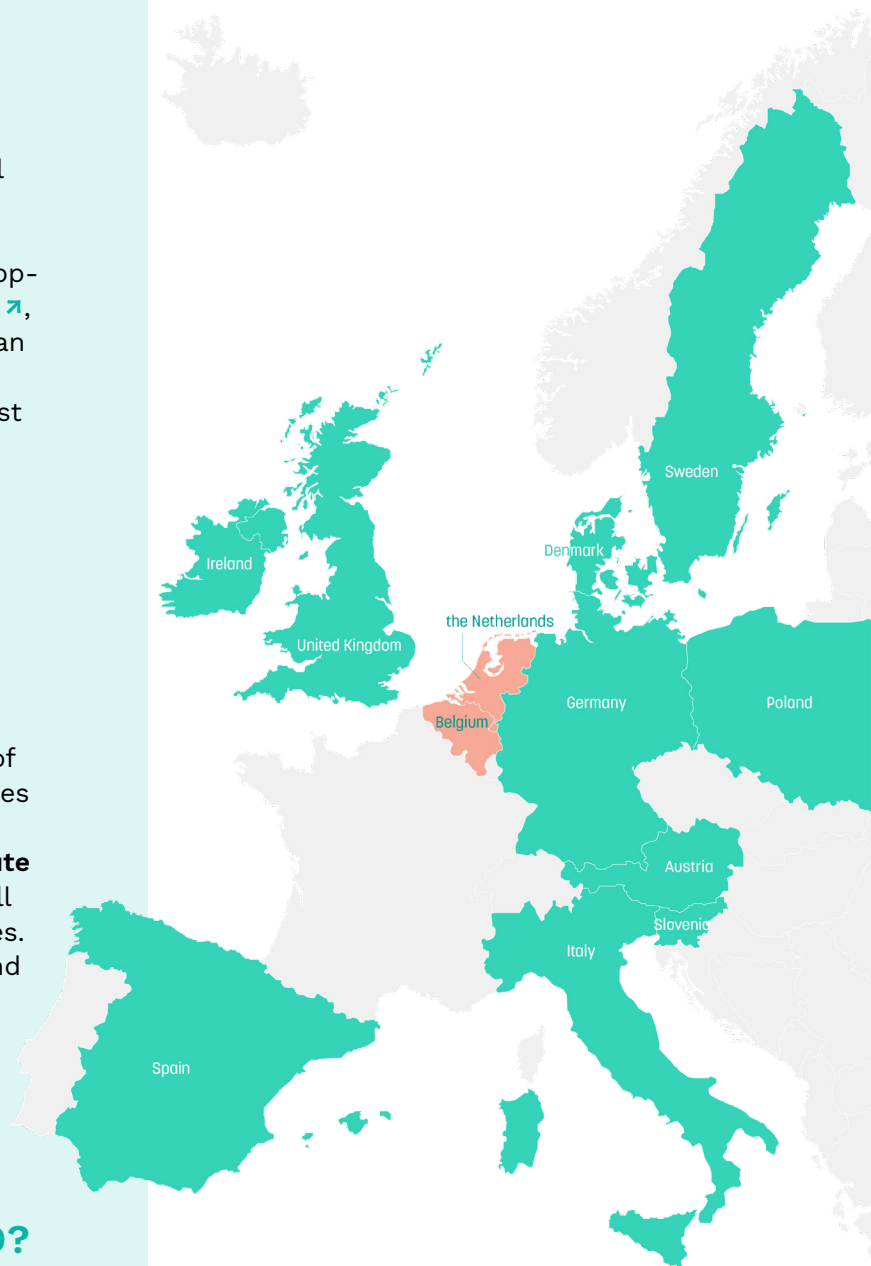
- **SKAO** [↗](#), the Foundation for Climate Friendly Procurement and Business, is the independent owner and manager of the CO₂ Performance Ladder, and manages this project.
- Alongside SKAO, the **International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)** [↗](#) will lead the quick scan and feasibility studies.
- **CO₂ Logic** [↗](#) leads the pilot in Belgium and will contribute to the lessons learned in Belgium.
- This project is supported by the **IKEA Foundation** [↗](#).

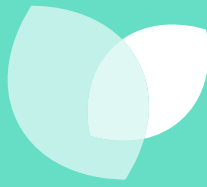
HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

GET IN TOUCH!

- Tell us about the GPP situation in your country, region or sector (as part of the Quick scan and feasibility study).
- Connect us to your network.
- Invite us to explain more about the CO₂ Performance Ladder and the project.

And who knows, maybe because of your recommendation, we will be able to start a pilot in that country, region or sector! To get in touch, please send an email to **info@skao.nl** [↗](#).





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