



## CO<sub>2</sub> PERFORMANCE LADDER

# THE CO<sub>2</sub> PERFORMANCE LADDER IN EUROPE

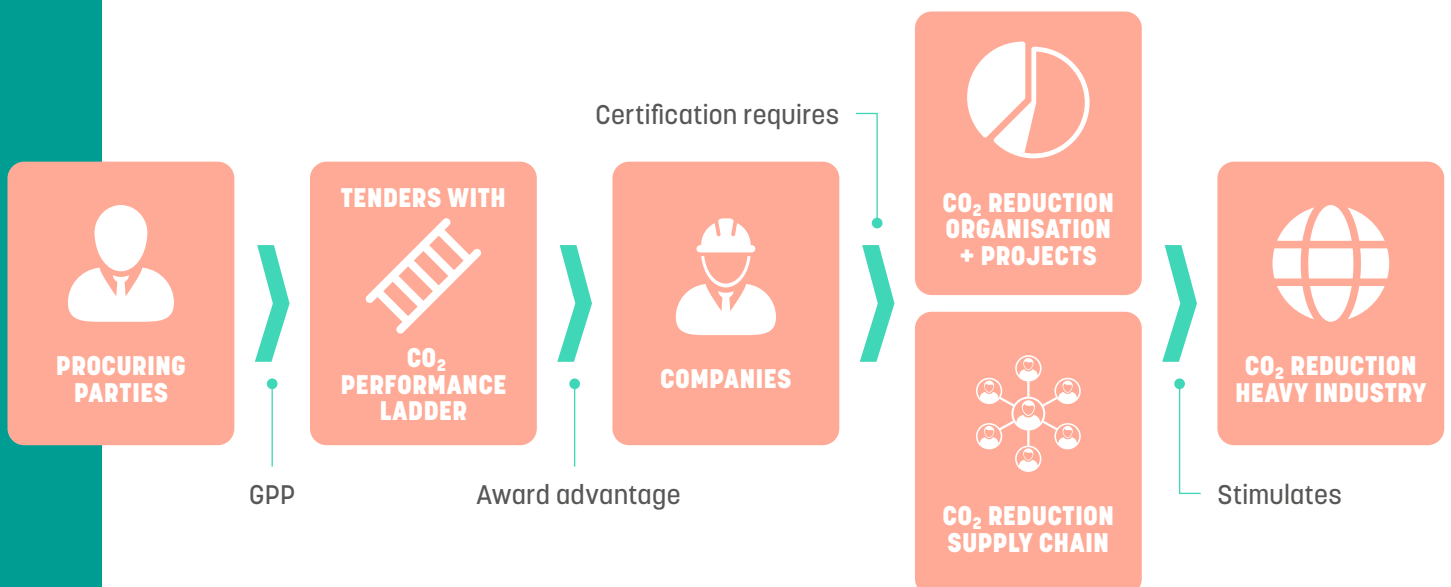
Over the past 12.5 years, the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder has developed into a successful procurement instrument that helps organisations to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and costs. Due to increasing international interest (including a pilot project in Belgium), the Foundation for Climate Friendly Procurement and Business (SKAO), together with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), will investigate whether the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder can also be used in Europe. For this project SKAO receives financial support from the IKEA Foundation.

## WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

For the last twelve years, the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder [\[link\]](#) has been responsible for a significant reduction of companies' and governments' CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Netherlands.

The project, *Accelerating carbon emissions reduction through the power of procurement, by dissemination of the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder in Europe project (CO<sub>2</sub>PLEU)*, will research the possibilities to disseminate this best practice instrument, and in so doing boost green public procurement and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.

- In short, the project begins with a **quick scan** of countries, regions and buyers groups, resulting in an overview of the situation – and the opportunities – across Europe.
- The results of the quick scan will feed into the next stage: the **feasibility study**, which



will research a few candidates in more depth and eventually result in expressions of interest from local parties to set up pilot projects implementing the ladder.

- **Lessons learned** from the twelve year history of the ladder in the Netherlands, and the current pilot in Belgium, will provide important insight for potential new initiatives.
- Throughout the project, care will be taken to align with broader developments such as the **European Green Deal**.

- The project runs for 1.5 years, from August 2021 to January 2023.
- The project is based on the theory that **green public procurement can result in a green revolution** among companies and their supply chains: a theory that has been demonstrated in the Netherlands and Belgium.
- The more procuring parties implement green public procurement, the **bigger the impact on companies** and their supply chains. Procurement accounts for €1.8 trillion of public spending in the EU alone, or 14% of EU GDP.

## WHAT IS THE CO<sub>2</sub> PERFORMANCE LADDER AND WHAT IS SKAO?

- The **CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder** [↗](#) is a practical and powerful instrument that **uses the power of green procurement** [↗](#) to reduce the carbon emissions of governments, heavy industries, companies and their supply chains.
- When procuring parties\* apply the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder during projects, CO<sub>2</sub> reduction is rewarded with award advantage for the bidding companies. The higher the ambition level of the company, the higher the award advantage.
- **To get certified** [↗](#), organisations are assessed annually as to whether they meet the requirements of the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder.
- Over 4.000 organisations are already certified (over 1.100 certificates) on the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder, and over 150 procuring parties (including the Dutch infrastructure **Rijkswaterstaat** [↗](#), **ProRail** [↗](#), and various local governments bodies such as provinces, cities and municipalities) use the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder as a green procurement instrument in tendering processes.
- SKAO is the **Foundation for Climate friendly Procurement and Business** [↗](#), the independent owner and manager of the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder.

\* By procuring parties we refer to both public procurers (contracting authorities – government and government agencies at all levels) and private buyer groups and networks.

## 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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](mailto:info@skao.nl) [↗](#)

## WHICH ORGANISATIONS ARE INVOLVED?

- **SKAO** [↗](#), the Foundation for Climate friendly Procurement and Business, is the independent owner and manager of the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder, and manages this project.
- Alongside SKAO, the **International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)** [↗](#) will lead the quick scan and feasibility studies.
- **CO<sub>2</sub> Logic** [↗](#) leads the pilot in Belgium and will contribute to the lessons learned in Belgium.
- This project is supported by the **IKEA Foundation** [↗](#).