Over the past 12.5 years, the CO₂ Performance Ladder has developed into a successful procurement instrument that helps organisations to reduce CO₂ 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 CO₂ 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 CO₂ Performance Ladder has been responsible for a significant reduction of companies’ and governments’ CO₂ emissions in the Netherlands.

The project, Accelerating carbon emissions reduction through the power of procurement, by dissemination of the CO₂ Performance Ladder in Europe project (CO₂PLEU), will research the possibilities to disseminate this best practice instrument, and in so doing boost green public procurement and CO₂ 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 CO₂ PERFORMANCE LADDER AND WHAT IS SKAO?**

- The CO₂ 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 CO₂ Performance Ladder during projects, CO₂ 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 CO₂ Performance Ladder.

- Over 4,000 organisations are already certified (over 1,100 certificates) on the CO₂ 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 CO₂ 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 CO₂ 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 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

**WHICH ORGANISATIONS ARE INVOLVED?**

- 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.