



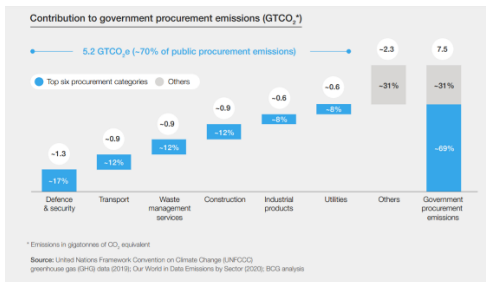
## CIRCULAR PROCUREMENT

‘From strategy to results’ – how circular procurement can make the change in the energy transition



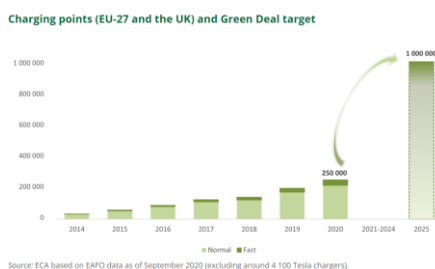
### OVERVIEW

Private and public procurement has an enormous impact on climate change. Public procurement is responsible for the release of 7.5 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere every year, or 15% of total global GHG emissions.



"Procurement is a powerful tool for reducing; the environmental impact of products and services. A circular approach, looking at the whole value chain and multiple lifecycles, can help the battle against climate change." **Veerle Labeeuw** (Circular Flanders), chair of the ECESP Leadership Group on Circular Procurement

With the European Green Deal, the Commission aims to have 13 million electric vehicles (EV) on the road with 1 million charging stations by 2025, and more than 30 million electric vehicles with 3 million charging stations by 2030.



Source: ECA based on EAFO data as of September 2020 (excluding around 4 100 Tesla chargers).

"Circular procurers can lead the circular energy transition." **Jean-Pierre Schweitzer**, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

So far, circular procurement criteria have not been mainstreamed into buying EV charging infrastructure. To stimulate this transition, this workshop used the example of procurement of charging stations for electrical vehicles to show how circular procurement can improve the energy transition.

There are manifold implications of and justifications for circular procurement, particularly in terms of charging stations for electric vehicles:

- reduction of GHG emissions
- reduce-rationalise public spending
- reduce the use of materials whose quantity is finite
- reduce the dependence of EU countries on third countries
- create valuable and qualified jobs

"Cities need to keep an eye on their users' needs in the procurement process." **Valentina Schippers** from the city of Haarlem

"Our company's circular ambitions are high but we need to tackle the hidden challenges together, public and private procurers and policymakers." **Joyce Droogmans**, Bpost

"Some of our existing infrastructure – becoming redundant with the deployment of fiber – offer a great opportunity to deploy new charging stations right into residential areas." **Mark Degraef**, Proximus on a project in city of Mechelen

## NEW CHALLENGES

- Need for EU standardisation
  - EU standard on payment in process but not yet there
  - Standardisation for Chargers
- Uncertainties
  - Workforce: Shortage of skilled workers for installation and maintenance
  - Supply chain: Material shortages, particularly following COVID-19
- Lack of data on charging stations
  - general and functional life of the various components
  - origin of those components
- Challenges for buyers
  - lack of common and clear criteria for circular procurement for EV charging points
  - Unclear circular impact of a product or service
  - Tracking ever evolving new technologies
  - Follow market developments and supply
  - Keeping the guidelines agile

## KEY MESSAGES

- With the goal of 1 million charging points by 2025, we are still a long way away from our targets: we have to install 3000 chargers/week. With this, the impact of circular procurement can be enormous.

- The roll out speed may need to be prioritised but public funds should aim towards sustainable outcomes.
- We need a clear roadmap, creative solutions and viable projects using already available materials and elements.
- Eco-design and contractual clauses may help to ensure the sustainability of future investments.
- We need more and better information and more cooperation between the various actors and the different levels of governance.

"Public and private buyers should lead the circular energy transition. By applying lifecycle costing and using procurement criteria including circular materials, extended durability, agreements on maintenance and repair, etc., they can make their procurement futureproof." Jean-Pierre Schweitzer, EEB