



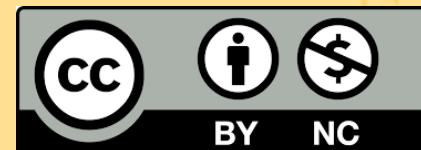
NBS
EduWORLD



Public procurement for NBS Lecture (online)

Credit: Neil Coles, PPMI

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Learning Outcomes for this Learning Unit

- Introduce and understand the concept of public procurement for NBS
- Identify barriers & challenges to public procurement for NBS
- Highlight how the challenges impact the delivery of NBS procurement projects
- Extract insights form lessons learnt from case studies
- Reflect on opportunities to incorporate practices into workplace

What is Public Procurement?

- Provide three words that describes public procurement from your perspective

Answer in Menti, code: 1234 5678

<https://www.menti.com/>

Definition of Public Procurement

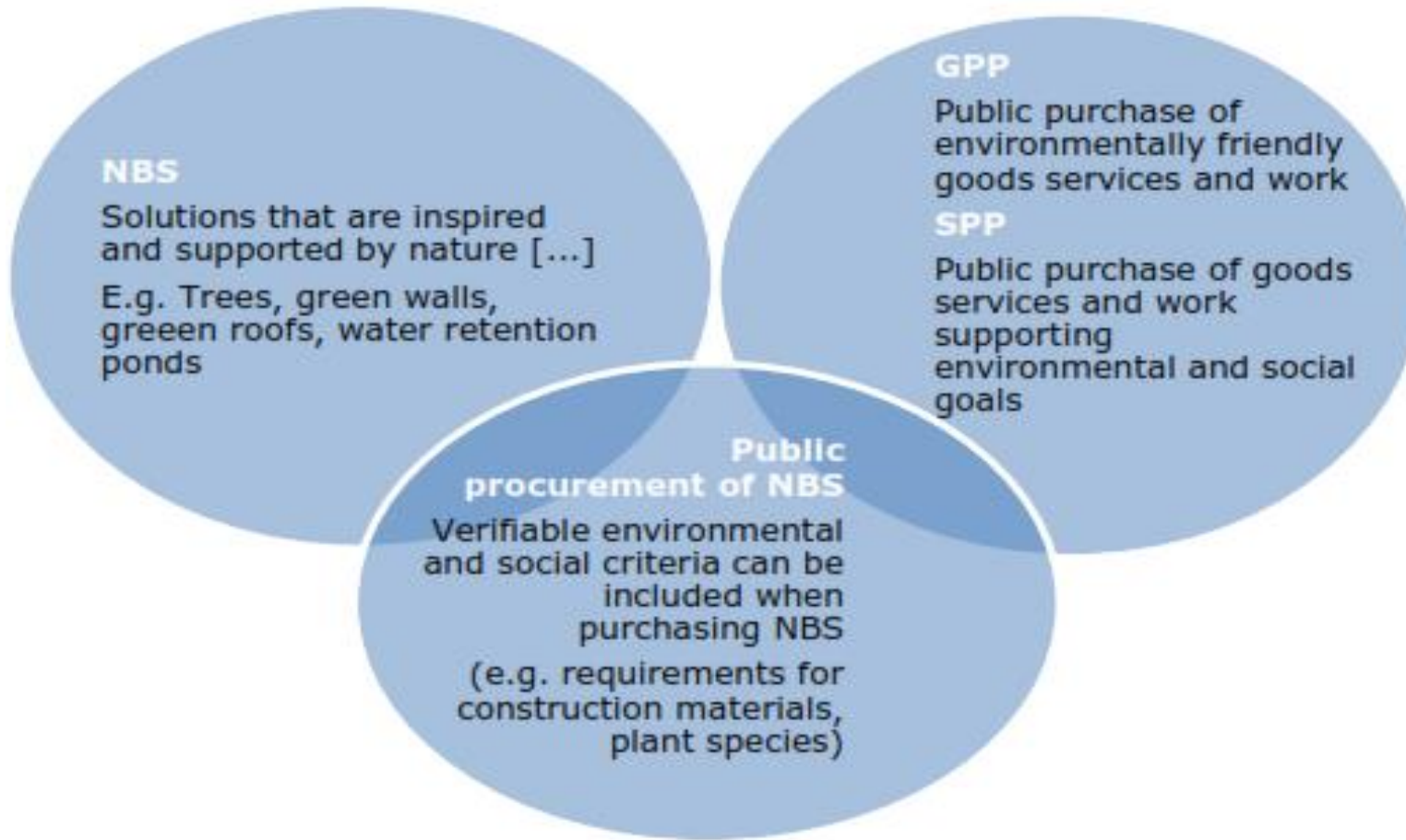
- Public procurement (PP) refers to the process by which public authorities, such as government departments or local authorities, purchase work, goods or services from companies.

Source: [Public tendering rules](#)

Why is Public Procurement important?

- Creates a level playing field for businesses across EU via agreed PP Rules
- Delivers around €2 trillion/yr to purchase services, works and supplies
- Measures are used to boost jobs, growth and investment
- Used to innovate, more resource and energy efficient & socially-inclusive
- Delivers high quality public services using modern, well-managed and efficient procurement

Defining NBS Procurement



- PP of NBS refers to the procurement of solutions associated with the definition green public procurement (GPP)
- Public authorities seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle
- Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) is similar in process, but also accounts for the social impacts.

Defining NBS Procurement

- The principles of GPP and SPP are supportive of the procurement of NBS
- However-widespread confusion between 3 terms harms NBS procurement
- Relative novelty of the NBS concept in mainstream urban planning practices
- Public procurers might lack the general knowledge of what an NBS is.
- Developing a clear understanding of NBS among public procurers is key

Barriers to Public Procurement of NBS

Knowledge & Experience

- Lack of knowledge and experience with NBS
- Key barrier for successful NBS uptake
- Limited consensus on the reliable measurement/quantification of NBS
- NBS provide benefits to larger areas than grey engineering solutions
- Benefits can evolve over different stages and timelines of the project

Site & Context knowledge

- NBS projects can be extremely dependent on the local/site specific context
- Longer term maintenance costs are difficult to define and price into projects
- NBS are living solutions, benefits are expected to last much longer.
- Limited information on the associated costs and benefits

Skills & Capacity

- Procurers often lack information, skills or capacity to evaluate NBS projects
- Complexities make it difficult to account for the full costs and benefits of NBS
- Support and training will assist public procurers deal with these challenges

Challenges to Public Procurement of NBS

1. Lack of NBS Typology

- Systemic classification of NBS for procurement remains elusive
- Comprehension of the corresponding performance criteria is difficult
- Creates uncertainty with the type of service or works to be procured

2. Difficulty Finding Skilled Suppliers

- Difficult to locate suppliers with requisite experience, capacity & skills
- Limited use of “common language” and technical expertise
- Impacts submissions from suppliers and valuation of NBS & services

3. Community Engagement on NBS

- Communities may have negative interactions with public authorities
- Creates view of no action on community view, issues and problems
- Results in consultation fatigue and a lack of engagement

Challenges to Public Procurement of NBS

4. Institutional and legal barriers

- Procurement officers may lack political and institutional support
- Traditions of spatial planners favours conventional engineering
- Maintenance budgets & responsibilities need to be clearly assigned

5. Perceived reputational risk

- Procurement using taxpayer funds tend toward risk-averse choices
- Reducing risk by predictable process – favour conventional solutions
- NBS proposals risk being perceived as high-cost and high-risk

6. Limited access to funding

- Limited public budgets exert pressures on procurement & value
- NBS projects are unlikely to be prioritised in a city's budgets
- Procurement of infrastructure projects challenged if it drives up costs

Example of NBS tender document

Criteria		
Criteria		
Av	Criteria	
Te	Point	
sp	Award	
s		
c		<p>ere 10 points were significant exceptions erion.</p>
		<p>h the lowest as high as the point.</p>
		<p>ubic meters of</p>
	<p>water handled. This price was agreed in collaboration with the water utility company which is in charge of the sewage system.</p>	

Challenges : Quick Quiz

Menti Questions:

Challenges to using Public Procurement for NBS

(Multiple Choice Q&A)

Case Study- Manchester- Public Procurement of NBS

Snapshot Case Study Introduction: Manchester

No. of inhabitants in the city	547,000
Procuring authority	Manchester City Council
Types of NBS procured	New climate-resilient park in East Manchester, including sustainable urban drainage features
Project value	£1.3m / €1.46m
Challenges faced	Difficulty in finding contractors with experience of delivering NBS project
H2020 Project	GrowGreen

Case Study- Manchester- Public Procurement of NBS

- Under GrowGreen initiative and guidance it developed a large scale NBS project aiming to address flooding issues
- Officers to procure, a new community park including extensive Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) features.
- Focus was given to biodiversity-friendly planting, and the community was widely involved in the design process

Case Study - Manchester- Public Procurement of NBS

- Procurement was undertaken separately for design and construction activities.
- Using an existing framework agreement to procure the design works
- City saved time, resources and leveraged existing suppliers relationships
- No tenders received due lack of expertise in the storm-water management aspects, lack of availability of staff, security concerns on the site

Case Study Manchester- NBS Procurement

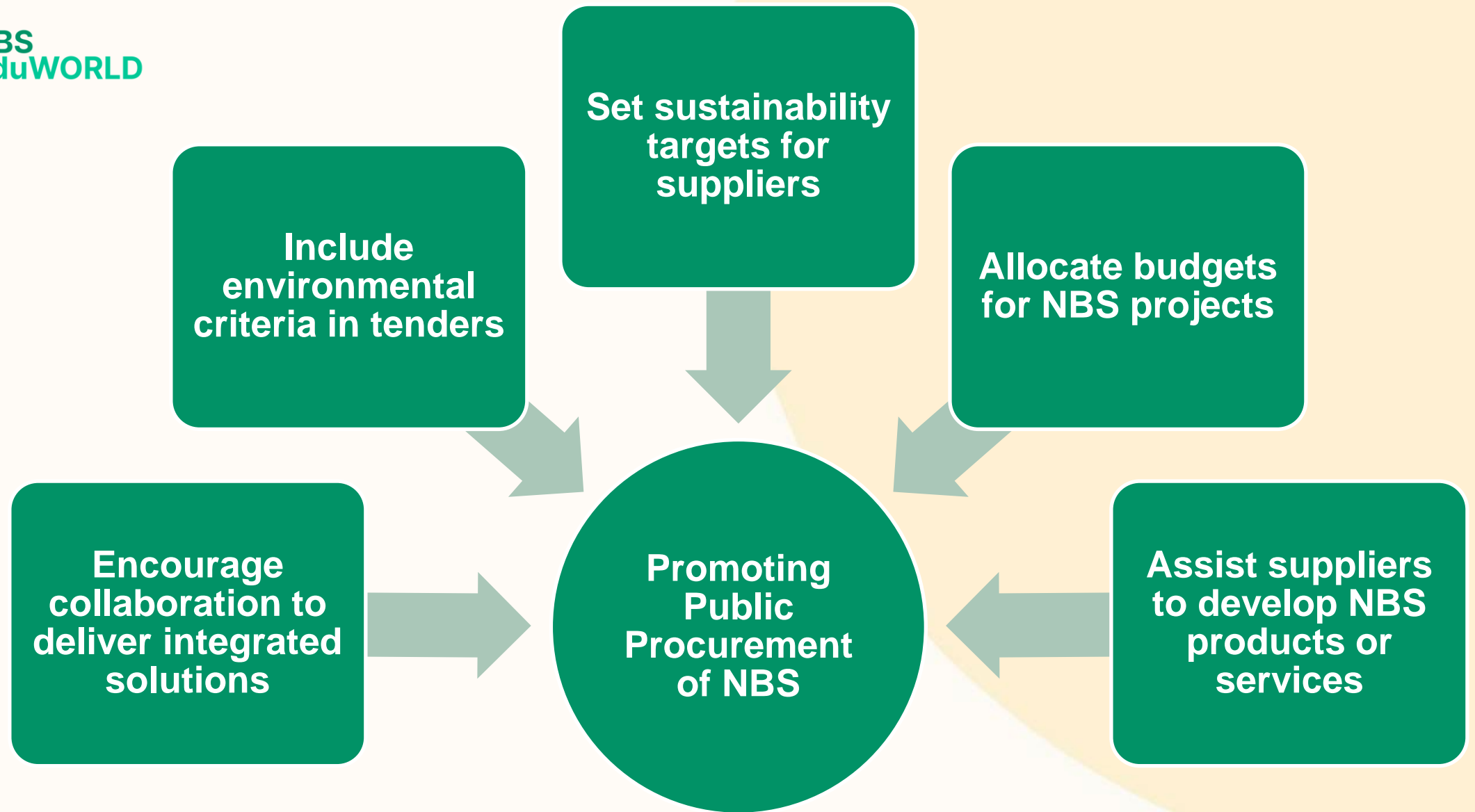
- Issue was eventually overcome through local inter-city cooperation
- Neighbouring Salford City Council had access to a good pool of landscaping contractors
- Utilised an existing procurement framework Manchester City was able to post the call for its NBS project tender
- Manchester was able to secure a suitable contractor and works were installed.

Case Study Manchester- Public Procurement of NBS



Reflect on challenges/actions for Public Procurers

- Adopt challenge-based thinking in calls for tender
- Consider grouping NBS contracts together
- Join an NBS network
- Promote cross-departmental exchange
- Use pilot projects to build trust in the community
- Encourage suppliers to think creatively about community engagement



Reflect on Mechanisms to deliver NBS through Public Procurement

Public Procurement of NBS - Other examples

Other case studies and information available at:

- <https://growgreenproject.eu/about/>
- <https://connectingnature.eu/>
- <https://unalab.eu/en>
- <https://clevercities.eu/>
- <https://networknature.eu/networknature/nature-based-solutions>
- <https://nbseduworld.eu/networks>



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Thank you!

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