

# 2010 Winner Leadership in Green Procurement Award



## Toronto Transit Commission Green Procurement Policy

**Summit: Canada's magazine on public sector purchasing, in collaboration with the Canadian Public Procurement Council, is pleased to present the winner of the 4th Annual Leadership in Green Procurement Award. The award was developed in co-operation with the Environmental Choice Program. It honours excellence and innovation in public sector sustainable procurement.**

### Thank you to our JUDGES

**David Ash**

Director, Infrastructure and  
Transportation Procurement  
Services  
Government of Manitoba

**Eric Blanchette-Ouellet**

Agent de la gestion financière  
Centre hospitalier universitaire  
de Québec

**Stéphane Girardin**

Green Procurement Advisor  
Policy Development Directorate, OGGO  
Public Works and Government Services  
Canada

**Steve Mills**

Manager of Purchasing and Office  
Services  
York Catholic District School Board, ON

**Larry Proud**

Purchasing and Inventory Control  
Manager  
BC Transit

**Teresa Rusk**

Procurement Services  
City of Airdrie, AB

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) recognized its unique position as Canada's largest public transit system and the third largest in North America and exercised a leadership opportunity by creating and implementing a green procurement policy (GPP). The new policy introduced new and complex issues not previously considered in TTC purchasing decisions such as origin/source of raw materials, source/nature of power used in manufacturing, recycled content of material, packaging considerations, method of delivery, life cycle costing, audit/verification process, etc.

The policy "...directs the organization to continually improve purchasing decisions by integrating environmental considerations into every aspect of the purchasing process... and all procurement activities related to facilities, construction, revenue and non-revenue vehicles, operations, administration, as well as other supporting activities."

Building on progress made, implementation of the GPP is occurring in three phases over 2 ½ years (See *Summit*, March/April 2010, "Driving sustainable transit" by Grant Waddell). Having committed more than \$700,000 to implementation, the TTC, currently in phase II, expects that by the end of December 2010 green procurement will be effective in all major aspects of the TTC's purchasing activities. The TTC is developing a green procure-

ment tracking system, that will be integrated into its online procurement system. The user-friendly system will track and report on key metrics related to both the implementation of green procurement as well as, where possible, the associated reduction in impacts.



**Building the Toronto subway system in 1954. [www.ttc.ca](http://www.ttc.ca)**

Several successful pilot projects have been conducted within the TTC's Materials and Procurement (M&P) Department to help staff evaluate the total cost (financial, social and environmental) of different options, as well as to demonstrate the value of exploring different purchasing options. An internal green procurement intranet provides ongoing support to TTC staff (over 225), including training materials, tools, guides and other resources. A second round of training this fall will focus on new support materials such as green procurement guides (both for departments and buyers); TTC-Wide Environmental Standards that reflect current best practice in procurement for key product

categories, including paper, packaging, IT equipment, furniture and lubricants; and the total cost of ownership tool, which refers to all costs that would be incurred by the TTC over the lifetime of a product from the moment it comes onto the property through to its proper disposal. Where possible, the TTC is also incorporating green procurement specifications into its system contracts, including contracts for bus tires, janitorial products, welding gases, stationery and lumber.

The TTC continues to engage key stakeholders by holding vendor workshops to introduce the policy, outline expectations and provide a brainstorming opportunity; using requests for information on specific products to solicit information on the latest technological developments relating to green products; giving presentations to their peers at industry conferences such as the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) and the Greening Government Conference; and encouraging TTC staff to submit ideas and suggestions and seeking collaborative arrangements with industry associations and groups, including major suppliers. The TTC is confident that its new green business model will have a positive effect throughout the organization, its peers and its vendors, who they hope will also seek to become more environmentally friendly.