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Green Public Procurement Development: Foreign Experience and Opportunities for its Application in Uzbekistan

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Abstract: Public procurement absorbs a large share of national income and, when directed toward environmentally preferable goods, works and services, becomes one of the most powerful levers available to governments for accelerating the transition to a green economy. This article examines the theoretical foundations of green public procurement (GPP), analyses the institutional and legal frameworks that underpin its implementation in the European Union and the Republic of Korea, and evaluates the extent to which such experience can be transferred to the Uzbek context. Using a comparative-institutional research design based on desk analysis of official legal acts, international-organisation reports and academic literature, the study finds that mature GPP systems share three common features: a binding legal obligation to purchase green products, a centralised catalogue or certification system that defines what counts as "green," and sustained investment in the training of procuring entities. Uzbekistan has already adopted a Green Economy Strategy for 2019–2030 and is undertaking a broad reform of its public procurement system, but green criteria remain fragmented and are not yet embedded in day-to-day tender practice. The article concludes that Uzbekistan is well placed to introduce a phased GPP roadmap — anchored in the existing e-procurement platform, a national green product catalogue and capacity-building programmes — that draws selectively on the European and Korean models while accounting for the country's own institutional capacity and market conditions.

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1. Introduction

Public procurement is one of the largest single categories of economic activity that governments directly control. Across OECD member states it represents on average around thirteen per cent of gross domestic product, and in many developing and transition economies the share is considerably higher because the state remains the principal buyer of construction, healthcare, transport and utility services[1]. Because of this scale, the way in which governments spend public money has consequences that extend far beyond the immediate transaction: procurement decisions shape market demand, set technical standards, and can either reinforce or gradually erode unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. Green public procurement (GPP) is the policy response to this observation. It is defined as the process by which public authorities seek to purchase goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle, compared with functionally equivalent alternatives that would otherwise be procured[2].

Over the past two decades GPP has evolved from a marginal, voluntary practice into a mainstream instrument of environmental and industrial policy in a growing number of jurisdictions. The European Union spends over 1.8 trillion euro annually through public contracts and has built an extensive, though still largely voluntary, architecture of GPP criteria covering dozens of product and service categories[3]. The Republic of Korea went further and made green purchasing a legal obligation for public institutions as early as 2005, coupling this obligation with a dedicated certification system and a digital monitoring platform[4]. Other economies, including China, Japan, and a number of middle-income countries, have introduced their own variants of mandatory or target-based green procurement over the same period.

Uzbekistan has, since 2017, undertaken a far-reaching modernisation of its public administration and public finance systems. The “Strategy for the Transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a Green Economy for the Period 2019–2030,” adopted by presidential resolution, explicitly identifies the development of mechanisms to stimulate “green” government procurement — including the elaboration of adequate technical specifications and a certification system for the energy efficiency of goods and services — as one of its policy instruments[5]. The subsequent “Uzbekistan – 2030” development strategy reaffirms the transition to a green economy as a national priority, with concrete targets for renewable energy capacity and the ecological modernisation of industry and transport[6]. In parallel, the government has launched a separate and far more radical reform of the public procurement system as such: a 2026 presidential decree sets a target of raising the share of competitive procurement methods to eighty per cent of total volume and the share of domestically produced goods to ninety-eight per cent by 2030, together with total projected savings of twenty-five trillion soum[7].

What is still largely absent, however, is a systematic articulation of how these two reform tracks — the green economy transition and the procurement modernisation agenda — should intersect. International partners have recognised this gap: the World Bank-supported Green and Resilient Market Economy Program explicitly lists the introduction of climate-sensitive public procurement standards among its prior actions[8], and the Asian Development Bank has organised dedicated policy dialogues on fostering green public procurement together with Uzbekistan's Ministry of Economy and Finance[9]. Yet, unlike in the European Union or the Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan does not yet possess a single legal act, a green product catalogue, or an institutional focal point that would translate the general policy commitment into operational criteria that contracting authorities can apply when drafting a tender.

This article addresses that gap. Its aim is twofold: first, to systematise the theoretical foundations and the most instructive elements of foreign GPP experience, with particular attention to the European Union and the Republic of Korea as two structurally different but well-documented models, and second, to assess which of these elements are realistically transferable to Uzbekistan given its current legal, institutional and market conditions, and to formulate corresponding policy recommendations. The article is organised according to the IMRAD structure. Section 2 reviews the relevant international and national literature. Section 3 describes the research design and data sources. Section 4 presents the results of the comparative analysis, including the conceptual framework of GPP, the European and Korean cases, and the current state of green procurement policy in Uzbekistan. Section 5 discusses the opportunities, constraints and policy implications that follow from the comparison. Section 6 concludes and sets out recommendations.

Literature Review

The conceptual foundations of green public procurement are most systematically set out in the guidance and criteria documents issued by the European Commission, which define GPP as a life-cycle-based purchasing approach and provide voluntary, product-group-specific environmental criteria that member states may incorporate into their

tenders[2]. A complementary strand of practitioner literature has traced the evolution of this voluntary architecture toward a hybrid model that increasingly embeds binding sustainability criteria in selected high-impact sectors, such as clean-energy technologies, while leaving the general procurement framework enabling rather than mandatory[10]. Academic assessments of the EU model, in turn, emphasise that the practical uptake of GPP criteria remains uneven across member states and identify legal uncertainty over the specification and verification of environmental criteria, together with the continued dominance of lowest-price award criteria in many contracting authorities, as the principal barriers to fuller implementation[12]. The OECD's own comparative survey work complements this literature by documenting, across thirty-four member countries, the diversity of institutional choices between mandatory requirements, purchasing targets and hybrid arrangements, which together demonstrate that no single legal design dominates international practice[11].

A second strand of the literature examines GPP as a legally binding policy instrument, drawing primarily on the Republic of Korea's experience under the Act on the Promotion of Purchase of Green Products. This literature documents not only the legal architecture of the Korean system but also its supporting digital infrastructure and its measurable environmental and economic outcomes, and is frequently cited as the clearest empirical demonstration that a mandatory, centrally monitored GPP framework can generate verifiable impact rather than remaining a purely declaratory commitment[4]. More recent contributions have documented the continuing expansion of Korea's Minimum Green Standards mechanism and linked its periodic revision explicitly to the country's renewable-energy and carbon-neutrality policy objectives[14], underscoring that even a mature GPP system requires ongoing methodological updating rather than a one-off legislative act.

With respect to Uzbekistan, the existing literature is considerably thinner and remains largely programmatic. The Green Economy Strategy for 2019–2030 and the subsequent “Uzbekistan – 2030” development strategy establish the national policy commitment to green procurement in general terms, without elaborating the specific legal, institutional or certification mechanisms required for implementation[5]. International-organisation assessments of Uzbekistan's procurement and green-economy reforms, including those produced in connection with the World Bank-supported Green and Resilient Market Economy Program and the country's broader procurement modernisation decree, likewise treat green criteria as a prospective policy direction rather than as an already operational mechanism[8]. The most directly relevant national academic contribution is a recent comparative study of foreign GPP experience — covering the Republic of Korea, Germany, China, the European Union and Kazakhstan — that argues for the phased introduction of a GPP framework in Uzbekistan, however, this and related contributions remain at the level of general policy argumentation and do not develop a structured comparative-institutional matrix linking specific foreign design features to concrete, sequenced recommendations for the Uzbek context[17].

Taken together, this body of literature establishes three points of consensus that inform the present study: that GPP frameworks vary along a spectrum from voluntary to mandatory design, that digital monitoring and certification infrastructure is a precondition for translating legal commitments into measurable outcomes, and that Uzbekistan's own green-economy and procurement-reform literature has so far articulated the policy intention without specifying the operational architecture. This gap — the absence of a systematic, comparative-institutional analysis connecting mature foreign GPP models to the concrete legal and administrative conditions of Uzbekistan — constitutes the principal point of departure and the scientific novelty of the present article.

2. Materials and Method

The study follows a qualitative, comparative-institutional research design combined with desk-based document and content analysis. This approach is appropriate for the research question because GPP is primarily a matter of legal design, institutional coordination and administrative practice, phenomena that are better captured through the systematic reading of primary legal and policy texts than through statistical modelling, particularly given the absence of a consolidated, publicly available dataset on green procurement transactions in Uzbekistan.

Three categories of sources were used. The first category comprises primary legal and policy documents: European Union directives and guidance on GPP criteria, the Republic of Korea's Act on the Promotion of Purchase of Green Products and related implementing regulations, and Uzbekistan's Green Economy Strategy for 2019–2030, the “Uzbekistan – 2030” development strategy, and the 2026 presidential decree on public procurement reform. The second category consists of reports and monitoring studies published by international organisations with a direct mandate in this field, including the OECD, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Open Contracting Partnership. The third category comprises peer-reviewed and professional literature discussing GPP implementation and outcomes.

The two foreign cases — the European Union and the Republic of Korea — were selected purposively rather than randomly, on the basis of three criteria: (a) the maturity and documentation of their GPP frameworks, which allows conclusions to be drawn from an accumulated record rather than a pilot phase, (b) the contrast between a supranational, predominantly voluntary model (the EU) and a unitary, legally binding model (Korea), which together bracket the range of institutional designs available to a policymaker, and (c) the existence of quantified, publicly reported outcome indicators, which is a precondition for any assessment of impact.

The analytical procedure comprised three steps: (i) extraction of the legal basis, institutional architecture, scope of green criteria, and reported outcomes for each case from the source documents, (ii) construction of a comparative matrix summarising these elements alongside the corresponding, currently available elements of the Uzbek framework, and (iii) qualitative synthesis of the opportunities and constraints for transferring specific design elements to Uzbekistan, informed by the country's existing e-procurement infrastructure and the stated objectives of its 2026 procurement reform decree.

The principal limitation of the study is that it relies on secondary, mostly English-language sources and does not include primary interviews with Uzbek procurement officials or contracting authorities, the resulting recommendations should therefore be read as a policy-analytical contribution to be validated through subsequent empirical and stakeholder-based research rather than as a final implementation blueprint.

3. Results

Green public procurement can be defined as a process whereby public authorities integrate environmental criteria into all stages of the purchasing process, from the definition of the subject matter of the contract and technical specifications through to the selection of bidders and the award criteria, so that goods, services and works with a reduced environmental footprint over their life cycle are favoured over functionally equivalent alternatives[10]. The concept rests on three pillars that recur across virtually every national framework analysed for this study: verifiable environmental criteria grounded in scientific evidence and, where available, eco-labelling schemes, a life-cycle perspective that accounts for operating, maintenance and end-of-life costs rather than the purchase price alone, and the translation of these criteria into legally operative language within technical specifications, selection criteria and contract-performance clauses.

The literature commonly distinguishes GPP frameworks along a spectrum from purely voluntary guidance to binding legal obligation, and along a second axis from target-based approaches, in which contracting authorities are set an aggregate purchasing goal, to product-based approaches, in which specific product categories may only be procured if they meet minimum environmental standards. A 2022 OECD survey of thirty-four member countries found that fourteen had introduced mandatory GPP requirements, ten had adopted purchasing targets without a formal mandate, and a further seven combined both instruments[11], illustrating that there is no single institutional template for GPP but rather a continuum of policy choices that a government can calibrate to its own administrative capacity (Figure 2, below).

The European Union's approach to GPP is built around a large set of voluntary, product-group-specific criteria developed by the European Commission and periodically updated, covering areas such as road construction and maintenance, office ICT equipment, food and catering services, and textiles[2]. Historically, member states retained discretion over whether and how far to apply these criteria, and the EU's public procurement directives — most notably Directive 2014/24/EU — primarily enable rather than require the use of environmental criteria, for instance through Article 68 on life-cycle costing, which allows contracting authorities to weigh operational, maintenance and end-of-life costs, including externalities such as carbon emissions, alongside the purchase price[10]. This voluntary architecture has produced uneven uptake: the proportion of tenders awarded on a “most economically advantageous tender” basis, which permits the inclusion of green award criteria beyond price, still varies substantially between member states, and legal uncertainty about how to specify and verify environmental criteria without breaching non-discrimination rules has been identified as a persistent obstacle to fuller implementation[12].

More recently, the EU has begun to shift from purely voluntary guidance toward sector-specific binding obligations. The Net-Zero Industry Act already requires contracting authorities to apply sustainability and resilience criteria when procuring designated clean-energy technologies, and during 2026 the European Commission has been revising the broader public procurement framework to embed sustainability, resilience and European-preference criteria more systematically, with new implementing rules setting minimum criteria such as carbon footprint, durability, recyclability and energy efficiency for selected clean-technology purchases[10]. The direction of travel, in other words, is toward a hybrid model that preserves general flexibility while making specific, high-impact categories mandatory — an approach that is directly relevant to the policy options available to Uzbekistan, discussed in Section 5.

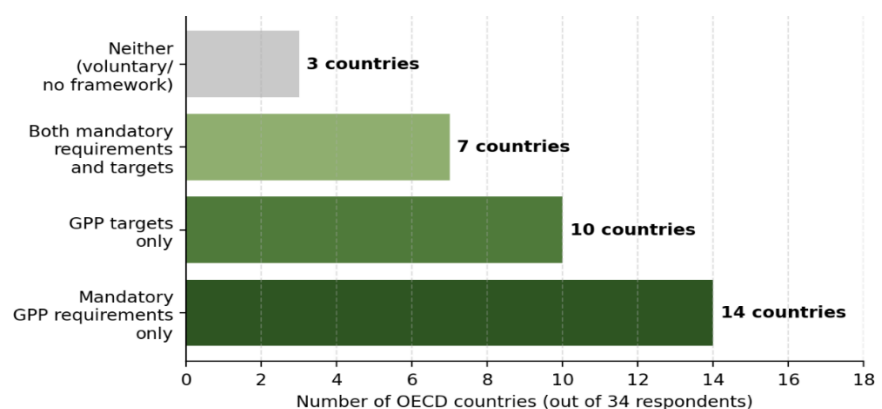


Figure 1. OECD 2022 survey on green public procurement: institutional approaches among member countries

Source: compiled by the author based on the European Commission's summary of the 2022 OECD Survey on Green Public Procurement.

The Republic of Korea offers the most frequently cited example of a legally binding, centrally coordinated GPP system among OECD countries. Under the Act on the Promotion of Purchase of Green Products, in force since 2005, public institutions are obliged to purchase a green product whenever they intend to purchase any product at all, subject only to narrowly defined exceptions, and every public institution must submit an annual green-purchasing implementation plan and report its actual purchase records to the Ministry of Environment[4]. The obligation applies to more than 880 government and public institutions directly, out of a wider universe of roughly 38,000 affiliated public bodies, and is enforced through the Korea Online E-Procurement System (KONEPS) together with the Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute's Green Procurement Information System, which together allow the automatic collection of purchasing data across all levels of government[4].

A central operational feature of the Korean system is the Minimum Green Standards (MGS) mechanism, introduced by the Public Procurement Service in 2010, under which specified product categories — covering items such as office appliances, air conditioners, LED lighting, vacuum cleaners and refrigerators — may only enter the public procurement market if they satisfy minimum thresholds for energy efficiency, standby-power consumption, hazardous-substance content and recyclability[13]. The coverage of the MGS system has expanded substantially over time: from an initial set of product categories at its 2010 launch, coverage reached 109 categories by 2019, and following a further revision effective from January 2026 the system now covers 176 product categories, with the Public Procurement Service explicitly linking the update to the government's renewable-energy and carbon-neutrality objectives[14] (Figure 2).

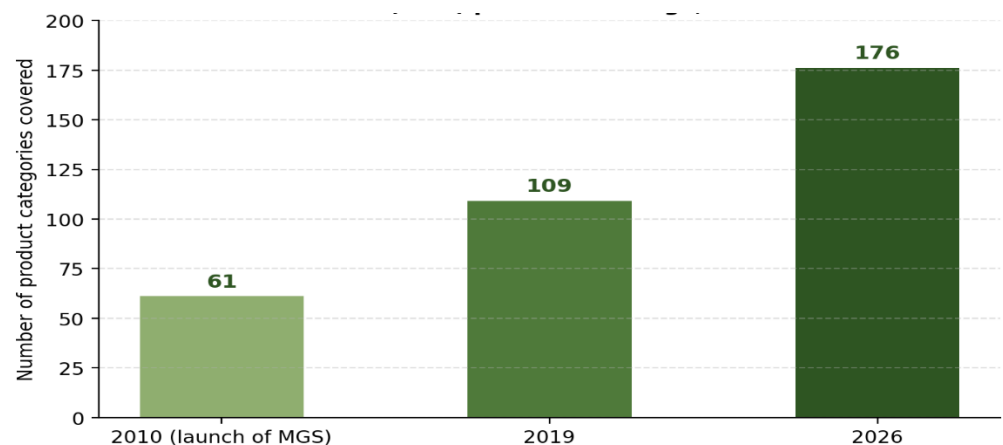


Figure 1. Growth of the republic of Korea's Minimum Green Standards (MSG) product coverage, 2010-2026

Source: compiled by the author based on the Open Contracting Partnership (2024) and Seoul Economic Daily (2026).

Korea also stands out for the rigour with which it measures and reports the impact of its GPP policy. According to official figures, green purchases made in a single year, 2017, reduced carbon-dioxide-equivalent emissions by an estimated 665,000 tonnes, generated pollution-reduction savings valued at approximately US\$ 35.4 million, and were associated with the creation of 4,415 jobs in the green economy[13]. These figures are frequently cited internationally precisely because they demonstrate that a legally binding GPP framework, if paired with adequate certification infrastructure and digital monitoring, can generate measurable and independently verifiable environmental and economic outcomes rather than remaining a purely declaratory policy commitment.

Table 1 summarises the principal design features of the European Union and Korean frameworks alongside the corresponding elements that are currently observable in Uzbekistan, based on the legal and policy documents reviewed for this study.

Table 1. Comparative overview of GPP design features: European Union, Republic of Korea, and Uzbekistan.

Design feature	European Union	Republic of Korea	Uzbekistan (current state)
Legal basis	Predominantly voluntary EU-level criteria, binding only in selected sectors (e.g. clean vehicles, net-zero technologies)	Binding obligation under the Act on the Promotion of Purchase of Green Products (2005)	General policy commitment in the Green Economy Strategy 2019–2030, no dedicated GPP act
Scope / coverage	Voluntary criteria for dozens of product and service groups (construction, ICT, food, textiles, etc.)	Minimum Green Standards cover 176 product categories (2026)	Not yet defined, no national green-product catalogue
Monitoring platform	No single EU-wide GPP data system, reporting varies by member state	KONEPS e-procurement system linked to the Green Procurement Information System	National e-procurement platform exists, green-purchase tracking not yet integrated
Award mechanism	Life-cycle costing (Art. 68, Directive 2014/24/EU), “most economically advantageous tender” criterion	Mandatory purchase requirement with narrow exceptions, certification-based eligibility	Lowest-price / competitive-method criteria, environmental award criteria not standardised
Reported impact measurement	Fragmented, estimated via MEAT-share and criteria-uptake indicators	Annual CO ₂ -equivalent, cost-saving and job-creation estimates published	Not yet measured for procurement specifically, GHG targets tracked at the macro (Strategy) level

Uzbekistan's public procurement system has been undergoing continuous reform since the mid-2010s, with the explicit objectives of increasing competition, transparency and the participation of domestic small and medium-sized enterprises. The most recent presidential decree on the subject sets quantified targets to be reached by 2030: the share of procurement conducted through competitive methods is to rise to eighty per cent of total volume, the share of domestically produced goods procured is to reach ninety-eight per cent, and the reform as a whole is projected to generate cumulative savings of twenty-five trillion so'm, the decree additionally provides for the phased introduction of digital tools, including artificial intelligence, in price formation and risk assessment[7] (Figure 3). None of these headline targets, however, is explicitly formulated in environmental terms.

The environmental dimension of procurement policy in Uzbekistan currently rests primarily on the Green Economy Strategy for 2019–2030, which sets a national objective of a ten per cent reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions per unit of GDP relative to 2010 and a doubling of energy efficiency by 2030, and which identifies “green” government procurement, alongside green lending and fiscal incentives, as one of the instruments to be used to reach these targets[5]. The strategy further calls for the inclusion of green criteria, based on international best practice, in priority areas of public investment and spending[15]. These are important policy signals, but — unlike in Korea, where the

corresponding obligation is set out in a dedicated act with binding force, or in the EU, where a detailed, product-specific criteria catalogue exists — the Uzbek strategy does not yet specify the legal instrument, the responsible institution, the certification mechanism, or the product categories through which green procurement is to be operationalised.

Some building blocks are nonetheless already in place or under construction. The World Bank-supported Green and Resilient Market Economy Program, approved with co-financing from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, explicitly includes the introduction of climate-sensitive public procurement standards among its policy prior actions, alongside the creation of a National Energy Efficiency Agency and a measurement, reporting and verification system for carbon markets[8], and the European Union, together with the Agence Française de Développement, has signed a financing agreement to support the implementation of Uzbekistan's green-economy strategy more broadly[16]. The Asian Development Bank has likewise convened policy dialogues with the Ministry of Economy and Finance specifically aimed at strengthening the technical and legal knowledge of Uzbek procurement practitioners on sustainable, eco-friendly procurement[9], indicating that the institutional groundwork for a future Uzbek GPP framework is beginning to be laid, even though it has not yet been consolidated into a single coherent instrument. Recent national scholarship reaches a similar conclusion, arguing on the basis of a comparative review of South Korea, Germany, China, the European Union and Kazakhstan that Uzbekistan should adopt a phased GPP roadmap anchored in national legislation, a green product catalogue and dedicated training infrastructure[17].

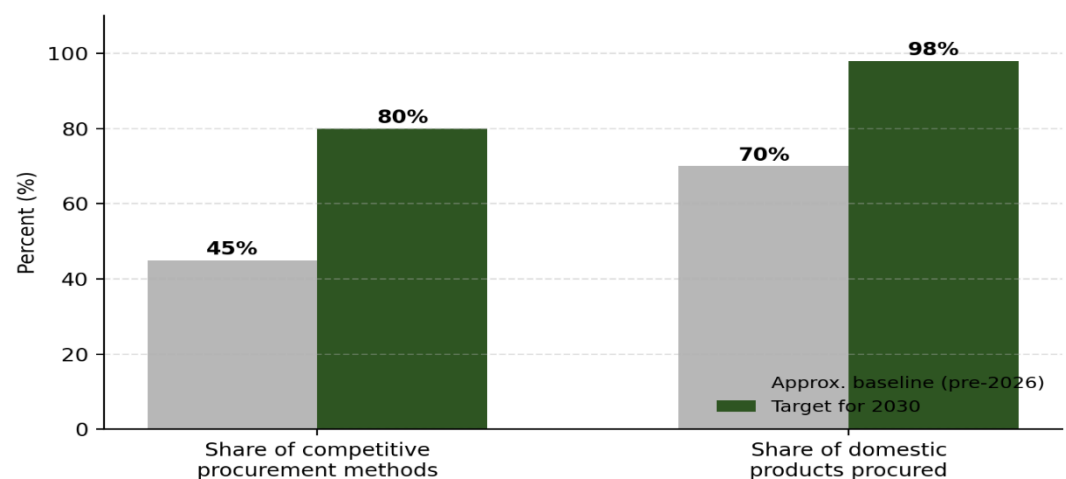


Figure 3. Selected targets of Uzbekistan's public procurement reform decree, to be achieved by 2030

Source: compiled by the author based on Frank.uz (2026) reporting of the 2026 presidential decree on public procurement reform. Baseline values are approximate and shown for illustrative comparison only.

4. Discussion

The comparative analysis suggests that Uzbekistan does not need to choose between the European and Korean models in their entirety, but can instead assemble a hybrid framework that reflects its own administrative capacity and the current stage of its broader procurement reform. Four opportunities stand out.

1. Building on an existing digital backbone. Uzbekistan already operates a national e-procurement platform, and the 2026 reform decree explicitly foresees the expansion of digital tools within that system[7]. Korea's experience demonstrates that a digital procurement platform is the single most important enabling condition for GPP

monitoring, since it is what allows purchasing data to be collected automatically rather than through ad hoc reporting[4], extending the Uzbek platform with mandatory green-product flags would be a comparatively low-cost, high-leverage first step.

2. A phased, category-based mandate rather than a blanket obligation. Rather than attempting to replicate Korea's near-universal legal obligation immediately, Uzbekistan could begin, as Korea itself did, with a limited list of high-volume, standardised product categories — such as lighting, office equipment, or construction materials — for which minimum environmental criteria are easiest to define and verify
3. Aligning green criteria with the domestic-content agenda. Because the 2026 decree already pursues a ninety-eight per cent domestic-content target[7], green criteria could be designed jointly with local industrial policy — for example, by linking preferential treatment in tenders to both domestic production and compliance with energy-efficiency thresholds — so that the two reform agendas reinforce rather than compete with one another.
4. Leveraging ongoing donor engagement. The World Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the European Union are all already active in financing or advising on either the green-economy transition or the procurement reform in Uzbekistan[8], coordinating these engagements around a single GPP roadmap, rather than treating them as parallel tracks, would reduce duplication and allow foreign technical assistance to be concentrated on capacity-building for contracting authorities, which both the EU and Korean experience identify as a binding constraint[11]

Several constraints identified in the foreign experience are directly relevant to Uzbekistan and should temper expectations about the speed of implementation.

First, legal and definitional uncertainty. Even in the European Union, with three decades of accumulated procurement case law, contracting authorities report persistent difficulty in specifying and verifying environmental criteria in a way that withstands legal challenge and does not inadvertently restrict competition[12]. Without a national green-product catalogue or certification body, Uzbek contracting authorities would face the same difficulty from a considerably weaker starting position.

Second, the absence of a domestic eco-labelling and certification infrastructure. Both the EU and Korean systems rely on pre-existing eco-label schemes or dedicated certification institutes to determine, in a way that is verifiable and largely automatic, which products qualify as “green.” Building an equivalent certification capacity in Uzbekistan, whether through a new institution or by recognising selected international certifications, is a prerequisite for any product-based mandate and is likely to be the most time-consuming element of implementation.

Third, the risk of a mandate without enforcement capacity. A legal obligation to purchase green products, modelled on the Korean act, is only as effective as the monitoring and reporting system behind it. Introducing a binding requirement before the underlying digital reporting and audit capacity is in place risks producing a purely formal compliance exercise rather than genuine market transformation.

Fourth, potential tension with price-driven procurement culture. Because life-cycle costing requires contracting authorities to weigh operating and end-of-life costs rather than the purchase price alone, its introduction can initially appear to raise the price of individual contracts even where it lowers total cost of ownership, without clear guidance and political backing, procuring entities operating under budget-execution pressure may default back to lowest-price selection.

On the basis of the foregoing analysis, the following sequenced recommendations are proposed for Uzbekistan.

1. Adopt a dedicated legal act or government resolution on green public procurement that operationalises the general commitments already contained in the Green Economy

Strategy for 2019–2030, clearly assigning institutional responsibility, defining the scope of “green” products and services, and setting a realistic implementation timetable.

2. Establish a national green-product catalogue and minimum environmental standards for an initial, limited set of high-volume product categories — following the Korean Minimum Green Standards model — rather than attempting an economy-wide mandate from the outset.
3. Integrate green flags and life-cycle cost fields into the existing national e-procurement platform, so that green purchasing data can be collected automatically as part of the ongoing digitalisation drive envisaged by the 2026 procurement reform decree.
4. Build certification and verification capacity, either by creating a dedicated national body or by recognising a defined set of international eco-labels and energy-efficiency certificates as interim evidence of compliance.
5. Launch structured capacity-building programmes for contracting authorities, drawing on the technical assistance already offered through the Asian Development Bank's policy dialogues and other donor-financed programmes, with the explicit aim of building the practical skills needed to draft and evaluate green tender specifications.
6. Align green procurement criteria with the domestic-content and competitive-procurement targets of the 2026 reform decree, so that environmental, industrial and public-finance objectives are pursued through a single, coherent set of tender rules rather than parallel and potentially conflicting instruments.
7. Introduce impact measurement and public reporting, modelled on Korea's practice of estimating and publishing the emissions, cost and employment effects of green purchases, so that the policy's contribution to Uzbekistan's Nationally Determined Contribution and green-economy targets can be tracked and communicated over time.

5. Conclusion

Green public procurement is neither a purely environmental instrument nor a purely administrative reform, it is best understood as the point where public finance, environmental policy and industrial policy meet. The comparative analysis presented in this article shows that mature GPP systems, whether built on the European Union's voluntary, criteria-based model or on the Republic of Korea's binding, centrally monitored model, share a common institutional core: a clear legal or quasi-legal basis, a mechanism for defining and certifying what counts as a green product, a digital infrastructure capable of tracking purchases, and sustained investment in the capacity of contracting authorities.

Uzbekistan already possesses two of the necessary building blocks for such a system: a national strategic commitment to the green-economy transition, expressed in the Strategy for 2019–2030 and reaffirmed in the “Uzbekistan – 2030” development strategy, and an ambitious, ongoing modernisation of the public procurement system itself, including a growing digital infrastructure. What is currently missing is the institutional link between the two: a dedicated legal instrument, a green-product catalogue, and a certification and monitoring mechanism that would allow green criteria to be applied consistently across contracting authorities and their impact to be measured. The recommendations set out in this article — beginning with a limited, product-based mandate integrated into the existing e-procurement platform, and expanding gradually as certification and monitoring capacity is built — offer a realistic and sequenced pathway for translating Uzbekistan's stated green-economy commitments into everyday public purchasing practice, drawing selectively on the European and Korean experience while remaining adapted to the country's own institutional starting point.

Future research should build on this policy-analytical contribution with primary, empirical work: in particular, structured surveys or interviews with Uzbek contracting authorities to assess baseline awareness and capacity, and a detailed legal-drafting study

of how a green public procurement mandate could be integrated into Uzbekistan's existing procurement legislation without duplicating or contradicting the parallel competitive-procurement reform.

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