

Topten Criteria in Public Procurement

Exemplary green power supply for the Consumer Assistance Centre of NRW

Case study 1



Buying Organisation

- Consumer Assistance Centre of North Rhine-Westphalia ('Verbraucherzentrale Nordrhein-Westfalen'), Germany
- Offers advocacy, consultancy and comprehensive assistance to consumers in NRW with consumer rights, energy bills etc.
- Annual budget: 35 Mio EUR (through public funding, donations, projects etc.).
- Website: www.vergabe.nrw.de

Procurement Background

Main drivers for the procurement of energy efficient products

- Contribution to climate targets by achieving CO₂ reduction through purchasing electricity from renewable energy sources
- Germany has a strong policy (Energy Transition, or 'Energiewende'¹) and legislation (The German Renewable Energy Act or 'EEG'²) on the promotion of renewable energy sources
- Support from [EcoTopTen](#), the national Euro Topten Max website and online database for Germany.

Main features of the tender

- Subject matter: *100% renewable power supply to the administrative office and 46 branch offices of Verbraucherzentrale NRW*
- Electricity demand: *Approx. 500 000 kWh (2012)*
- Period: *24 months (01.10.2013 - 30.09.2015)*
- Value: *between 210 000 and 250 000 EUR*
- Award criteria: *lowest price*
- *Variants not admitted*

¹ <http://www.bmwi.de/EN/Topics/Energy/energy-transition.html>

² The German Renewable Energy Act (German: Erneuerbare-Energien-Gesetz, EEG) came into force in the year 2000 and was the initial spark of a tremendous boost of renewable energies in Germany.



Success factors

- Collaboration with the German Öko-Institut Freiburg, who developed [EcoTopTen](#), provided the basis for the minimum criteria for electricity from renewable energy sources.
- Vast offer on the market: Germany, southern Germany in particular, has a vast choice of suppliers and producers of renewable energy.

Topten Criteria

Technical specifications

- *The technical specifications for the supply of electricity from 100% renewable energy sources explicitly referred to the environmental minimum criteria according to the EcoTopTen criteria for electricity (as of March 2013) as defined by the Öko-Institut eV Freiburg. Particular reference was made to Part 3 'Ecology' and the 'Environmental minimum criteria for EcoTopTen power products'³*
- *Regarding the selection of green power products by the 'Verbraucherzentrale NRW', the following bids can be taken into consideration:*
 - *Green power supply offers that are already listed on current EcoTopTen lists for electricity from renewable energy sources;*
 - *Nationwide bids⁴*
 - *Offers that provide appropriate evidence that the green electricity supply is in compliance with the environmental minimum standards according to the current EcoTopTen criteria.*
- *Proof of compliance with the minimum criteria for green power supply is an independent and competent expertise according to the requirements set out in EcoTopTen (EcoTopTen power criteria 2013 p. 10) and has to be submitted unsolicited at the submission of the bid.*

Additional Criteria

- *Retail as well as fund models⁵ will be taken into consideration. The respective requirements can also be found in the EcoTopTen criteria catalogue. Differing bids (from EcoTopTen catalogue) are only admissible if the supplied power originates from renewable energy sources and is not based on 'system power'.*

³ http://www.ecotopten.de/download/EcoTopTen_Kriterien_Strom_2013.pdf, pages 3-10.

⁴ http://www.ecotopten.de/download/EcoTopTen_Strom_2013.pdf

⁵ With the "Fund model" the electricity supplier provides the customers with power that originates either from renewables and CHP or from conventional electricity (supply part of the fund model). In order to generate the required additional environmental value, a portion of the electricity price (subsidised amount) must be paid into a fund for the financial support of power plants, which (in the case of RES-E plants) feed their electricity into the grid under the German RES Legislation (EEG).

