

Topten Criteria in Public Procurement

The district of Göttingen goes for
EcoTopTen green power

Case study 3



Buying Organisation

- Göttingen is a district in Lower Saxony, Germany.
- The population accounts for around 250,000 people living within 1,117 km²
- Website: www.landkreis-goettingen.de

Procurement Background

Main tender features

- Subject matter: *100% renewable power supply to public facilities of the Göttingen District*
- Electricity demand: *51 public assets including schools, sports and administrative facilities;*
- Period: *24 months (2014-2015)*
- Award criteria: *most economically advantageous tender (MEAT)*

Main driver for the procurement of energy efficient products

- *Added value for the region by creating demand for 100% renewable energy generation and supply*
- *Contribution to climate targets by achieving CO₂- reductions through purchasing electricity from renewable instead of fossil fuel-derived energy sources*

Success factors

- *EcoTopTen, the national Euro Topten Max website and online database for Germany, provided the base for the minimum criteria for electricity from renewable energy sources.*
- *The German Öko-Institut Freiburg rated the winning bidder, HarzEnergie, as a provider of a top environmental product for its green electricity known as 'NaturWatt Strom', in its EcoTopTen list. This list includes only providers of products that ensure that the energy production in Europe will become more environmentally friendly and that support new green power plants*



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;*
- *Proof of compliance with the minimum criteria for green power supply is an independent and competent expertise according to the requirements set out in EcoTopTen¹ and has to be submitted unsolicited at the submission of the bid.*

Additional Criteria

- *Retail as well as fond models 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.*

Results

The winning bid "HarzEnergie NaturWatt Strom" is composed of 100% wind, water and solar power. TÜV Nord monitors the origin of the electricity annually, alongside its contribution to the promotion of new renewable energy production (required by EcoTopTen criteria). Moreover, it guarantees transparency throughout the supply chain and engages in the implementation of new renewable energy projects.

"We were able to make a convincing offer both in content and economic terms. Choosing a local, regional utility ensures also a large portion of the regional added value remains at local level."

Andreas Grannemann, HarzEnergie

¹ EcoTopTen power criteria 2013 p. 10

