



## Agenda

# Carbon Footprint Policy Accelerator: Learning about *Buy Clean* and Whole Life Carbon Regulatory Standards for Buildings

**7-8 November 2023**

**RIFS Potsdam, Berliner Strasse 130, 14467 Potsdam, Germany**

Demand-side policies targeting the carbon footprint of products are promising instruments for the much-needed rapid decarbonization of industry and construction. The built environment has become a testing ground for path-breaking policies in the form of maximum carbon footprint procurement specifications for building products and maximum whole life carbon thresholds for buildings.

At this international conference, inputs from key actors involved with the Buy Clean movement in the USA (public procurement of building products) and mandatory maximum carbon threshold standard setting for buildings in Denmark and the Netherlands will be complemented with interactive sessions on the limitations and potentials of these approaches and the transfer of lessons learnt. We will explore the connections with the US Inflation Reduction Act and public and private pledges to buy ultra-low carbon products through the Clean Energy Ministerial's Industrial Deep Decarbonisation Initiative (IDDI) and the First Movers Coalition, highlighting potentials for coordinated action.

Joint invitation with



**THE BARTLETT**  
INSTITUTE FOR  
SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES



Life Cycle



Initiative

### Day 1: 7 November 2023

09.00 – 09.30	<i>Welcome Coffee</i>
09.30 – 9.45	<p><b>Welcome  </b> Mark Lawrence, RIFS</p> <p>Klaus Töpfer, former German environment minister, former UNEP director, founding Director of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) - now RIFS</p> <p>Nino Jordan, RIFS and University College London Institute for Sustainable Resources (UCL ISR)</p> <p>Julia Vismann, moderator and editor (radio eins, inforadio, Deutschlandfunk)</p>
9.45 – 9.50	<p><b>Focus and structure of the conference  </b> Nino Jordan, RIFS and UCL ISR</p>

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9.50 – 10.20	<p>Keynote</p> <p><b>Why the dominant approaches so far have failed to decarbonise industry and why carbon footprint policies are necessary</b>   Michael Grubb, UCL ISR</p>
10.20 – 11:05	<p>Presentations</p> <p><b>Part I: The Buy Clean movement in the USA</b></p> <p>What is Buy Clean legislation? What have been the major challenges in bringing about Buy Clean legislation for public procurement of lower carbon building products and how have these challenges been overcome? What are the latest developments in North America and how are they going to impact the global landscape for low carbon procurement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Sippola, California Air Resources Board</li> <li>• Charlie Martin, BlueGreen Alliance</li> </ul>
11:05-11:20	<p>Q&amp;A   Julia Vismann</p>
<i>11:20 – 11.35</i>	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
11.35 – 12.20	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p><b>Part II: Using green procurement coordination across countries and between public and private sectors to create lead markets for low/zero carbon products</b></p> <p>How can government coordinate amongst each other and with the private sector to rapidly scale up demand to create lead markets for low carbon industrial products?</p> <p>What are challenges and promising strategies for key actors?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nancy Gillis, First Movers Coalition [via videolink]</li> <li>• Rainer Quitzow, RIFS and TU Berlin</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fiona Skinner, UN Industrial Development Organization/Clean Energy Ministerial Industrial Deep Decarbonisation Initiative [via video link]</li> <li>Kay Tor, UK Infrastructure and Projects Authority</li> </ul>
12:20 – 12:30	Q&A   Julia Vismann
<i>12.30 – 13.30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
13.30 – 14:15	<p>Group work</p> <p><b>Part III: How to increase ambition and scale and ensure international equity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group 1: How can the <i>ambition level of Buy Clean</i> policy be increased over time? Is it better to make a single set of requirements more stringent or should there be separate procurement tracks supporting better-than-average/lower carbon products and radical zero carbon products separately? What is the optimal sequencing of measures to combine political-technical feasibility with the rapid creation of ultra-low/zero carbon lead markets? (led by Charlie Martin, BlueGreen Alliance) (in-person)</li> <li>Group 2: Could Green Public <i>Procurement be a precursor</i> for mandatory maximum carbon intensity requirements for products? What would be opportunities and challenges in moving from green procurement to mandatory maximum carbon intensity requirements for products? (led by Kathleen Mar, RIFS) (in-person)</li> <li>Group 3: How can green procurement policy be made <i>inclusive</i> for emerging economies and the global South? How can green procurement policy in the global North also help the global South to decarbonise rather than simply put up trade barriers? How can support for carbon labelling be ensured? How could technology transfer and financing look</li> </ul>

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	like? (led by Kaushik Ranjan Bandyopadhyay, Indian Institute of Management) (online)
<i>14.15 – 14:30</i>	<i>Coming back to the ballroom &amp; coffee break</i>
14:30 – 15:15	<p>Presentation of group work results (10 minutes incl. comprehension questions each)</p> <p>Synthesis discussion in plenary (15 minutes)</p>
<i>15.15 – 15:30</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:30 – 16:15	<p>Group work</p> <p><b>Part IV: How can public procurement initiatives and regulatory carbon footprint standards be better aligned across countries, subnational actors and private initiatives?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group 1: How can decision-makers around the world optimally seize the <i>opportunities</i> for industry decarbonisation offered by the Buy Clean movement and emerging procurement pledges? (led by Charlie Martin, BlueGreen Alliance) (in-person)</li> <li>• Group 2: <i>Coordination</i> has huge potentials but there are also pitfalls. How can one prevent a lock-in into suboptimal regulatory standards and procurement specifications? (in-person)</li> <li>• Group 3: What is the role of <i>subnational actors</i> such as cities, states, regions and Länder in driving low carbon procurement and regulatory standard-setting? (led by Hrabrina Nikolova, Westminster City Council) (online)</li> </ul>
<i>16.15 – 16:30</i>	<i>Coming back to the ballroom &amp; coffee break</i>



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16:30 – 17:15	Presentation of group work results (10 minutes incl. comprehension questions each) Synthesis discussion in plenary (15 minutes)
17:15 – 17:30	<b>Summary and Outlook</b>   Nino Jordan and Julia Vismann
18.30	<i>Dinner at Restaurant EL Puerto, Lange Brücke 6, 14467 Potsdam</i>

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### Day 2: 8 November 2023

09.00 – 09.30	<i>Welcome Coffee</i>
09.30 – 9.45	<b>Part I: Wrap up of yesterday’s session and connection to today</b>   Nino Jordan und Julia Vismann
9.45 – 10.00	<b>Part II: Launch of Global review of Whole Life Carbon Assessments in the Built Environment</b>   Charalampos ‘Harry’ Michalakakis, UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
10.00 – 10.45	<p>Presentations</p> <p><b>Part III: Whole life cycle carbon standards: the Danish experience</b></p> <p>How do the maximum carbon thresholds for building lifecycle emission in Denmark work? How are the ambition levels defined and how do they relate to average performance and radical innovation? What are the plans for the near future?</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <p>Helle Redder Momsen, Nordic Sustainable Construction, Danish Authority of Social Services and Housing</p> <p>Kai Kanafani, Aalborg University</p>
10:45 – 11:00	Q&A   Julia Vismann
11.00 – 11.15	<i>Coffee Break</i>

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11.15 – 12.00	<p>Presentations</p> <p><b>Part IV: The Dutch experience</b></p> <p>The Dutch mandatory maximum threshold for buildings goes beyond carbon and comprises an environmental lifecycle assessment (LCA) for 11 impact categories, including embodied carbon. Each of the impact categories gets converted to Euros via a special procedure for weighting and converting impacts into currency value. How does it work exactly? How are the ambition levels defined and how do they relate to average performance and radical innovation? What are the (expected) outcomes? What are the plans for the near future?</p> <p>Presentation: Jan-Willem Groot, Dutch Environmental Database</p>
12:00 – 12.15	Q&A   Julia Vismann
<i>12.15 – 13.15</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
13.15 – 14.00	<p>Group work</p> <p><b>Part V: Promises and limitations of the Danish and Dutch approaches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group 1: Methodological challenges of the Dutch approach (with Dutch expert) (in-person) (led by Rixt van der Valk, UCL ISR)</li> <li>• Group 2: Methodological challenges of the Danish approach (with Danish expert) (in-person) (led by Melanie Jans-Singh, UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero)</li> <li>• Group 3: Dutch vs Danish approach – what are the relative dis/advantages? (online)</li> </ul>
<i>14.00 – 14:15</i>	<i>Coming back to the ballroom &amp; Coffee Break</i>

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14:15 – 15:00	<p>Presentation of group work results (10 minutes incl. comprehension questions each)</p> <p>Synthesis discussion in plenary (15 minutes)</p>
<i>15:00 – 15.30</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15.30 – 16:15	<p>Presentations</p> <p><b>Part VI: How to best advance learning on carbon footprint policies?</b> Quick inputs by existing initiatives</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Melanie Jans-Singh, GlobalABC Whole Life Cycle Coalition for policy-making in the built environment</p> <p>Nino Jordan, Carbon Footprint Policy Accelerator</p> <p>Elizabeth Losos, Duke University, Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership [via video link]</p>
<i>16:15-16.30</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:30-17:00	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p><b>Part VII: What have we learnt? What are the challenges for policy makers and industry in the adoption of mandatory whole-life/embodyed carbon standards for buildings?</b></p> <p>Anna Braune, German Sustainable Building Council</p> <p>Cécile Dap, Low Carbon Building Initiative</p> <p>Melanie Jans-Singh, UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero</p> <p>Mona Abdulghani Naji Mohammed, UNEP</p>
17:00-17:15	<b>Conclusion and farewell</b>   Julia Vismann and Nino Jordan



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*17:15*

*End of the conference*

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