



Factsheet on state of play

EU-US TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL WORKING GROUP 2

Description and Mission of the Working Group on Climate and Clean Tech

WG2 covers climate, energy, and environmental policy initiatives with relevance for transatlantic trade, and the research and innovation that underpins them.

Overview of the main work streams and topics being discussed

1. Green procurement policies (GPP)

The EU and the US are looking for a common understanding of how government procurement procedures should consider sustainability objectives, as defined in COP26 and the EU Green Deal. The focus is on green products and technologies that can make a substantive positive impact on achieving our climate ambitions. The aim is to create an open *Transatlantic Green Procurement Market* for these products.

With its large procurement budgets and important role in the provision of key public services, the public sector can be a trailblazer in the wide deployment of sustainable approaches and technologies that reduce CO2 emissions.

Examples of digital solutions abound: energy-efficient buildings; smart mobility; smart energy networks that can smoothly integrate energy from renewable sources; and efficient lighting along roads and highways. As such, this work aims to define methods and best practices in green procurement in order to accelerate the wide deployment of green goods, services and technologies in the public sector that not only support the climate but can also contribute to boosting economic recovery.

The work stream will also endeavor to establish metrics for the net impacts of digital solutions on CO2 emission reduction to assist procurers in their decision-making.

2. Electro-mobility and interoperability with smart grids

The global market for electric vehicles is growing. This is accompanied by an increase in the building of public and private charging infrastructure. Adequate technical data and tools are needed to assess and test electricity grid impacts under real-life conditions and to avoid local grid overload, service disruptions, and cyber security risks when charging infrastructure is deployed. In the medium term, smart charging and vehicle-to-grid integration can increase the use of renewable electricity and support decentralized energy resource frameworks.

This workstream focuses on joint pre-normative research, carried out by the EU's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) in the US. It involves the entire charging value chain, including grid operators, charging site operators and service providers, the electric vehicle (EV) and charging column industry as well as EV users. It entails testing and evaluating the interoperability of charging supply equipment and electric vehicles, as well as communications and protocols between the charging network and the grid, to deliver mutually agreed operating requirements and validation methodologies. The work aims to support and guide the roll-out of compatible charging technologies, permission processes, and overall implementation of charging sites by both charging point and grid operators. By not having to adapt their hardware and software to different regions, or incompatible standards, US and EU industry would make greater economies of scale in

mass production. The work is expected to improve the quality of infrastructure, benefitting society at large by underpinning standardization with sound science and reducing fossil fuel dependency.

3. Carbon footprint methodologies (CFP)

This workstream will work towards common or compatible approaches for CFP (expressed as tones of CO₂ equivalent per ton of product produced) for selected energy-intensive products and supply chains. This will be combined with a common exploration and identification of examples and best practices in supply chain traceability, and of the role that emerging technologies – such as blockchain, Artificial Intelligence (AI), or Internet of Things (IoT) – can play for monitoring greenhouse gas (GHG) footprinting.

Carbon footprinting methodologies could be used to:

- Provide reliable information to consumers on the emissions intensity/carbon footprint of the products they purchase (including corresponding labelling)
- Determine Green Public Procurement criteria for the purchase of ‘green’ products and minimum thresholds for ‘brown’ (non-acceptable) products
- Determine conditions under which a product can be placed on the market
- Contribute to quality checking & reconciliation of the IPCC compliant calculations of countries’ national greenhouse gas emissions
- Provide a basis for regulating the greenhouse gas emissions from industrial facilities

Overview of past and future stakeholder activities

1. Green public procurement

Discussions between the European Commission and US Government Representatives took place weekly in September and October, identifying, among others, the key best practices on green public procurement on both sides. This work will lead to the publication of a catalogue on EU and US best practices on procurement (which should be ready for TTC 4). A stakeholder event on this topic is planned for 2023.

2. Electromobility

An Industry Stakeholder Workshop was hosted at the EU’s Joint Research Centre at Ispra (Italy) on 24/25 October 2022. It gathered input on e-mobility and interoperability with smart grids from innovative industry players, both ‘big’ industry and start-ups from both sides of the Atlantic, as well as industry associations and technical and policy experts from the US Dept. of Energy and the European Commission. The report of the Workshop is published on [Futurium](#) and the outcomes will feed into the drafting and publishing by the JRC and ANL of the first technical recommendations for government-funded implementation of charging infrastructures, planned for the end of the year (and ready for TTC4). Further stakeholder events are foreseen.

3. Carbon footprint methodologies

In June 2022, the Atlantic Council convened two transatlantic technical workshops within the framework of EU Climate Dialogues. The workshops examined two critical issues for which there is currently no European or transatlantic consensus:

- i) identifying generally acceptable methodologies for determining carbon intensity or embedded carbon content for key commodities, beginning with steel, cement, and aluminium, and other sectors at a later stage, including chemicals, polymer, fertilizer, glass, and paper; and
- ii) ensuring that an appropriate venue exists to administer the application of agreed methodologies.

The EU is currently working on developing and implementing a system of digital GHG footprints for more complex products to encourage lower-emitting manufacture of such products.

Work should continue under TTC WG2 in 2023 with the aim of arriving at Joint recommendations for lifecycle GHG assessment methodologies, including carbon footprint methodologies.