

19 SEPTEMBER 2022

# Joint Statement of Demand for Emission-free Construction Site Machinery

As public buyers, we are committed to leveraging our procurement as a tool to promote sustainable development and innovation. We aim to transition towards carbon neutrality by eliminating emissions from our construction works, whilst improving the local air quality and conditions of construction workers. The construction sector represents as much as 36% of global energy use and 39% of GHG emissions<sup>1</sup>. This means the sector presents a clear opportunity to make a significant impact in lowering global GHG and solving local environmental problems. Cities, which largely concentrate the negative externalities caused by construction works (e.g. air pollution, noise, congestion), can be frontrunners in the promotion of cleaner construction machinery, with which they can also achieve improved health and safety for workers on-site and quality of life for citizens in the surrounding area.

We acknowledge that market frontrunners need a clear and reliable signal of aggregate demand to de-risk and enable rapid scale-up of emission-free construction solutions, and that this transition must go hand in hand with the transition to and accessibility of clean energy. We are dedicated to strengthening cooperation between us as public buyers, as well as with construction machine manufacturers, contractors, and providers of supporting energy infrastructure or technology advancements for enhanced site management.

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<sup>1</sup> [Global Status Report 2017 by UN Environment and International Energy Agency](#)

## DEFINITIONS

**Zero-emission** in the context of this statement is understood as **emission-free** construction activities **within the construction site fence** (Figure 1) - meaning no exhaust emissions from any machinery in operation on site. Zero-emission solutions could be, for example, cable or battery electric NRMM models.

**Fossil-free** in the context of this statement is understood as solutions powered without fossil fuels, such as biogas or biodiesel. Some buyers involved may use sustainability-sourced fossil-free options to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on their construction sites as an intermediate solution, awaiting wider market readiness of emission-free solutions and energy infrastructure transition. However, fully emission-free solutions are the end target of all.

**\*Notes** Emissions from machinery used on construction sites are typically one element of wider environmental criteria used by the contracting authorities individual buyers involved may have a broader scope for emissions considered in their procurements - for example, including transportation of materials to and from the site, embodied emissions from material extraction or production, or energy production.

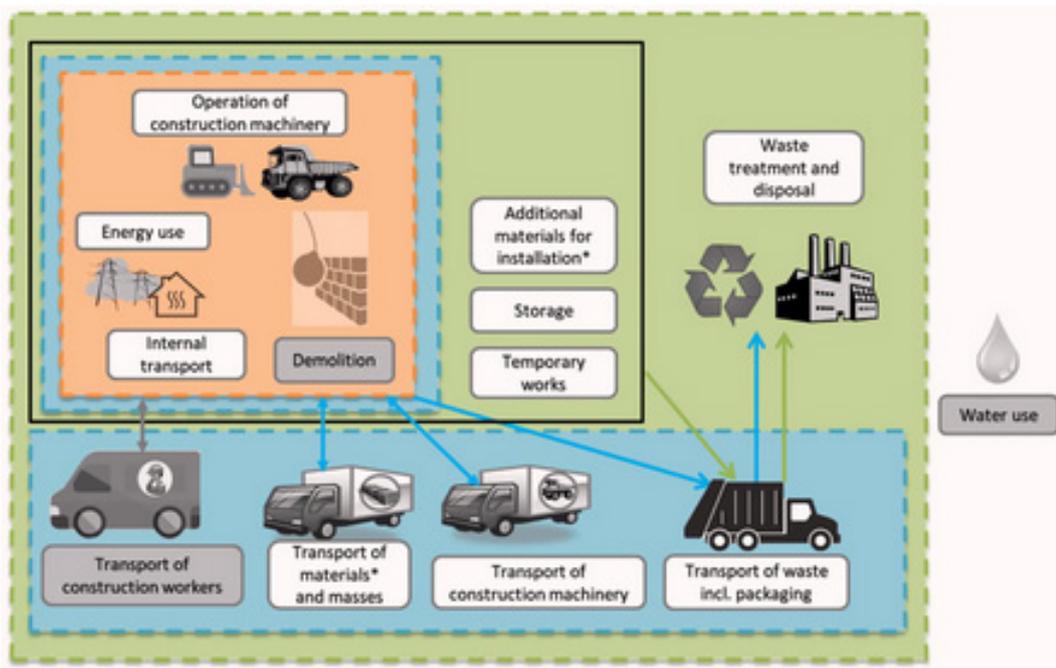


Figure 1: Definition of the scope of the system boundary (construction site fence).<sup>2</sup>

This joint statement serves to announce the aligned demand across big public buyers in Europe to procure for emission-free construction sites. We also acknowledge that existing or already planned contracts, as well as varying market availability across EU Member States and regions, may impact the timeline of achieving those ambitions.

**As organisations with major annual construction contracts, we jointly declare the following ambitions, and will prioritise Zero-emission technologies to achieve them:**

- **Require fossil-free construction machinery in own public projects from 2025, with at least 20% emission-free machinery, where available.**
- **Require fossil-free construction machinery in own public projects from 2030, with at least 50% emission-free machinery, where available.**

We commit to engage with other public institutions, suppliers, workers, social and industry organisations to support the innovations necessary to meet these targets, using pilot projects to demonstrate the feasibility of this transition.

<sup>2</sup> [Impact assesment of zero emission building processes in Oslo by SINTEF and Institute of Transport Economics](#)

#### SUPPORTING BUYERS



Oslo



Ajuntament de  
**BCN**