

Many times, when we think about the impact that we cost to the environment, we look at waste. Have you ever thought about everything that is involved in a simple paper cup ? **But the impacts of that paper cup as trash are only a small part of the full picture. Let's step back for a second and think about how that paper cup came to be, and came to be at the place where we've got it.**

Let's go all the way back and think of the trees that had to grow to make the paper, to make the paper cup. What about the fertilisers, agrochemicals and other types of chemicals involved, and after that, the emissions of different types of pollutants like greenhouse gases, wastewater and solid waste. And all of that happened just to bring that paper cup to you, a paper cup that lasted a few minutes in your hand and went down to the trash; mind-blowing, isn't it ? **That's the relationship between our consumption patterns and our environmental impacts.** Imagine if you had to think about all of these things: about the life cycle of each product that you consume, every time you consume it. **But it would be really time consuming, wouldn't it! In order to promote environmentally friendly practices and reduce if possible the impacts of production and waste, governments are putting up new policies to help.**

Today, we will look at the Chilean case. Chile is a long and thin country in South America, it is improving its environmental law, and it's putting up a cross section of policies to make the country more sustainable. **The biggest is a platform for public procurement. Public procurement is a responsibility of the direction of procurement and public contracts.** This is a decentralized service, depending on the Ministry of State, and it started operating in 2003. **Its goal is to create value and provide access to suppliers for the State.** Hence, this allows to have more efficient public procurement. Public procurement is big business; it's approximately equal to 3% of the Chilean GDP, and the way that it works is through an online platform where everybody has access. Thus, it's very transparent.

Most of the proposals that win the bids belong to small and medium sized businesses, which in turn promotes entrepreneurship. **This public service aims to be an example for all businesses in the country.** And a way they have for doing so is putting up sustainability criteria; in the three pillars of sustainability: social, economic and environmental.

To do so, to implement these criteria, the direction offers training to both bidders and suppliers, so that they know how to express and certify the criteria. First implemented 2007, by 2013, sustainability criteria were already present in 43% of the bids. **Some examples are: that the solution provided does not hurt the environment; that minority groups are included in the company; that there are sustainability policies in the company; energy efficiency policies and others.** There is no unified approach or equal labelling approach in Chile, so every department in the government has a chance to choose the criteria that they will use in their bids. There are in fact specific directives for shopping electronic appliances and paper, and examples of this are the use of energy star or a national energy efficiency system. However for any other material, each office has the freedom of

choosing which are the certifications that they will accept. However, suppliers must present a certification or affidavit that they comply with the requirements.

With these criteria, the direction hopes to promote sustainable consumption or production, both at the consumer and the producer sites. Although the government is a big market share, not every public policy is directed to it, in fact, 2014 saw the start of a large scale tax reform in the country, which included two types of green taxes: **the first, implemented in 2015, is a tax to diesel vehicles;** this tax is directly related to the emissions of nitrogen oxides of all new cars, and it hopes to be a tool to promote more sustainable decisions by the final consumer; the overall goal of this measure is to improve the quality of city air. **The second tax, to be enacted in 2017, is a tax to medium to large stationary sources that use non-renewable fuels.** The tax will depend on the yearly emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, sulphur oxides and particle materials, and the goal is to protect the health of the population. We could also see it as a way of moving electricity production to more renewable sources. **Chile is a world leader in carbon tax. Recently in COP 21, our president, Michelle Bachelet, has joined other world leaders to promote carbon taxing around the world.** **Our final example is the law project for recycling.** The idea behind this project of law is to promote recycling or the valorisation of waste in any way. **And the idea is to reduce the amount of waste that goes to the dumpsite.** It introduces the concept of the extended responsibility of the producer, which means that the producer has to take care of the waste it generates after the consumer has used it. That is an example of the application of the concept of life cycle; on the other side of the life cycle, at the beginning when you're designing the product, the law introduces the concept of eco design. **Eco design is a way of designing products to reduce the overall impact on the environment, so we are speaking about all of the phases from the production of the product, to the waste, and all of these stages produce lesser impacts.** Who will take care of the waste? Specialized service providers! And the law is promoting the formation of cooperatives from our current base recyclers. Not only that! The government is also helping them put up companies that will be sustainable in time, by training them and helping them in other ways.

In summary, the future law will promote the use of waste as a material; hence reducing the amount of waste that goes to the landfill. Second, it defines a **business model where the producer will be responsible for the collection and treatment of its waste, and that treatment will be carried out by a specialized service provider that will be chosen in a transparent bidding process.** The minister of the environment hopes to have the law project approved by late 2015 or early 2016, if so, the law will probably be enacted around 2017 or 2018. These are just some examples about what Chile is doing to move to a more sustainable economy. What about what your country is doing? In fact, what are you doing to contribute to sustainable development? Cheers.