



## Sustainable Procurement Policy

The University of Birmingham recognises its procurement activities have significant impact on the environment, society and the economy and accepts that it has a responsibility to strive to effectively manage and minimise those impacts. This is reflected in the frameworks and assessments achieved and under which we are operating.

- Flexible Framework Level 5
- Procurement Maturity Assessment (Superior)

The Procurement Strategy (to 2030) enables the University's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint and evaluate the environmental and social impact of our activities. The University's Sustainability Policy also identifies Procurement's role in encouraging systems thinking and applying the principles of the circular economy by embedding sustainable, ethical and life cycle considerations into purchasing decisions.

This Sustainable Procurement Policy applies to everyone who specifies and purchases products and services on behalf of the University in the United Kingdom and internationally and therefore all commercial expenditure irrespective of source of funds. The commitments set out in the Policy will be delivered by means of the development of sustainable procurement objectives and action plan. We will continue to embed sustainable procurement by committing to:

### **Work with staff and students to:**

- Promote best practice in sustainable procurement, making information easily accessible and available for all.
- Support the maximisation of the use of existing assets and resources.
- Collect and report on appropriate KPIs to identify opportunities for sustainable interventions.
- Reduce the demand for products and services by promoting the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Raise awareness and ensure that environmental, social, and whole life cost criteria are considered in the assessment of best value for money and in the decision-making process.
- Promote the specification and selection of products and services which minimise environmental impacts and positively impact on society and the economy, including promoting the selection and use of Fairtrade products.
- Incorporate circular economy principles into procurement, use and disposal of products and services to reduce negative impacts on the environment.
- Ensure fulfilment of duty of care obligations and compliance with all relevant legislation throughout the procurement process and in the disposal of products at end of life. Undertake sustainability risk/impact assessments of products and services to be purchased.

- Promote the use of ethical suppliers and ethical supply chains.
- Communicate the sustainable procurement policy to its staff, students, contractors, and suppliers and develop good practice through appropriate networks, benchmarking, and training.
- Remove barriers to entry to encourage local, regional, SME and ethnic minority suppliers to compete for university business. Work with contractors and suppliers to:
- Consider the social, economic, and environmental impacts of their products, services and activities and take positive steps to improve performance against sustainability objectives.
- Comply with national and international standards on environmental and human rights issues and encourage a strategic approach to sustainable development and progress.
- Adopt sustainable approaches to the production of products and services and within their own supply chains.
- Minimise packaging waste and provide take back schemes.
- Promote awareness of the University's sustainability policies, objectives, and aspirations in the supply market
- Remove barriers to entry to encourage local, regional, SME and ethnic minority suppliers to compete for university business.

**Work with Higher Education Sector and other purchasing consortia to:**

- Ensure Consortia's Sustainable Procurement Policy includes commitments that are as those set out in the University's Sustainable Procurement Policy and support the University in fulfilling its commitments with regards to sustainable procurement.
- Ensure that the Consortia commits to removing barriers to entry such that suppliers within the locality and region of the University, and SME and ethnic minority suppliers irrespective of locality or region are encouraged and enabled to compete for Consortia contracts.
- Where appropriate encourage Consortia to competitively tender contracts on a regional basis to avoid suppliers in the region being precluded from competing due to the geographical nature of the Consortia.

**Utilise Systems and Processes to:**

- Utilise the Net Zero Carbon Supplier Tool to support the development of supplier capability to reduce their carbon emissions at a faster pace and support our carbon reduction plans.
- Negotiate with both our contracted and pre-tendering suppliers to offer lower carbon and waste producing goods, products, and services as part of our Net Zero Carbon targets and contracting process.

Progress reports will be provided to the University Sustainability Task Group and Sustainability Steering Group as part of the Sustainability Governance structure.

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