

Sustainability Purchasing Network

Sustainability Purchasing: *The Smart Decision for Communities*

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A program of the



Fraser Basin Council

Connecting Organizations to Buy Smart



“Procurement has the power to transform public services, to improve outcomes, to make life better for the people we serve.”

*National Procurement Strategy for Local Government
Final Report, April 2008*

“You can reduce your overall impact, operate more efficiently, and save money by using your leverage over your supply chain.”

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A powerful leverage for change



- Public sector spend is substantial
 - governments around the world tend to spend 6 - 10% of GDP on goods and services (OECD 2006)
- Governments are often the biggest single customer in any region
- You have a *direct impact* on the market due to volume of procurement
- You have an *indirect impact* by spurring similar action across the private sector

Key idea: Use public procurement to achieve desirable environmental and social impacts in your communities

What is sustainability purchasing?

A systematic way in which organizations buy supplies or services by taking into account:

- The best value for money (price, quality, availability, functionality)

and adding in

- Social and ethical aspects (local jobs, working conditions, inclusiveness, fair trade)
- Environmental aspects over the life cycle of the product



Sustainability purchasing: Business case for governments

Reduce GHG
emissions / climate
change

Minimize waste
to landfills

More efficient use of
materials, energy, and
natural resources

Manage risk / reputation



Improve air quality

Improve water quality

More resource-efficient
design and construction

Healthier communities

Priority “sustainability” spend areas

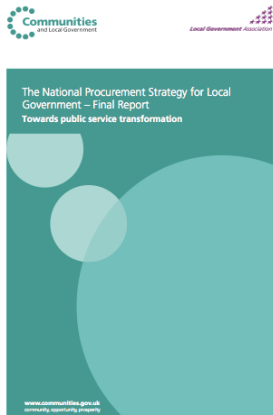
The **10 priority spend categories** at national level identified by the Task Force are:

1. Construction (building and refit, highways and local roads, operations and maintenance)
2. Health and social work (operating costs of hospitals, care homes, social care provision)
3. Food
4. Uniforms, clothing and other textiles
5. Waste
6. Pulp, paper and printing
7. Energy
8. Consumable – office machinery and computers
9. Furniture
10. Transport (business travel, motor vehicles).

Source: UK National Procurement Strategy Task Force



Global trends



- **UK: National Procurement Strategy for Local Governments**
 - Objective: Procurement to help deliver objectives set out in community plan, including economic, social, and environmental
- **ICLEI and Procura+ Campaign**
 - Promotes sustainability in public procurement in Europe
- **Japan's Green Purchasing Law**
 - Explicit goal is to help Japan meet its Kyoto targets and reduce waste



Case study: King County, WA

King County
Environmental Purchasing
2008 Annual Report




King County
Department of Economic Services
Finance and Business Operations Division
Procurement and Contract Services Section
Environmental Purchasing Program

- Environmental Purchasing Policy 1989/1995
 - Developed in response to overburdened landfills and to create markets for recyclables
 - Expanded in 1995 to include other environmentally preferred products
- Program housed within Procurement but staff are not buyers
- Requires annual report to Council
- In 2007, purchased \$54 million of green products, saving \$837,000 over conventional products

www.kingcounty.gov/operations/procurement/Services/Environmental_Purchasing.aspx

Case study: Whistler, BC



- Purchasing Policy resolved in 2006; aligns with Whistler2020 sustainability vision
 - Addresses “materials and solid waste by eliminating problems upstream at the procurement level”
- Created *Sustainability Purchasing Guide* (www.whistler2020.ca)
- Sharing strategy with the community
 - Whistler Chamber of Commerce leading initiative to educate commercial sector
 - Promotes SP Guide as commercial baseline for procurement



About the SPN

- Program of the Fraser Basin Council, launched in 2006
- *Our mandate:* Support organizations to develop or improve their sustainability purchasing practices
- Offers training, networking and shared learning, tools, and resources as well as advisory services
- Check out SPN Resources and Events Calendar online at www.buysmartbc.com





Acknowledgements

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