

NWUPC Ltd Sustainable Procurement Policy – October 2020

Introduction

“Sustainable Procurement is a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment”.

Sustainable Procurement Task Force Definition (2006; UK Government)

NWUPC Ltd is a not for profit organisation limited by member guarantee working predominately in the North West region on behalf of Higher Education Institutions but with a commodity specific national reach. We have 24 full members who own NWUPC as well as additional associate and affiliate members who utilise our services but do not have voting rights.

The aim of NWUPC Ltd is to provide a structure for higher education institutions mutually to secure value for money in matters relating to the procurement of goods and services.

NWUPC’s Commitment to Sustainability

NWUPC is committed to creating framework agreements that promote ethical and environmentally aware procurement activity. The NWUPC is in a strong position with 24 full members and an aggregate spend of circa £149m.

For NWUPC, Sustainable Procurement supports wider social, economic and environmental objectives in ways that offer real long-term benefits. NWUPC is able to leverage its market power to bring about environmental and social benefits that we are committed to.

NWUPC is committed to:

Social

- Promoting fair working conditions for all employees directly and indirectly employed by our suppliers whilst keeping the cost of services and goods to a level so that they remain economically advantageous.
- Eliminating discrimination directly or indirectly through applying conditions or requirements on the grounds of age, colour, disability, ethnic origin, gender, HIV status, marital status, nationality or national origins, race, religious beliefs, responsibility for dependants, sexuality or unrelated criminal conviction.
- Ensuring product safety and high standards of quality.
- Ensuring its supply chains work towards greater transparency and responsibility towards the people working on them and encourage them to commit to the highest standards of business in dealing with Modern Slavery.

Economic

- Considering whole life cost and use this as the key methodology for evaluation.
- Identifying supply chain opportunities for sourcing eco-friendly products and services and use aggregated power to influence the market to drive down costs of such alternatives.

- Continuing compliance with EU legislation and Government Buying Standards
- Delivering value for money.
- Sourcing and utilising new and emerging technologies to support sustainable procurement processes.

Environmental

- Promoting the benefits of eco-friendly products to members and raising awareness of alternatives available.
- Monitoring and actively reducing negative environmental impacts associated with our operations whilst finding opportunities to increase positive impacts.
- Seeking eco-friendly and ethical procurement options to facilitate the day to day operations of the company.
- Working with our Members and other stakeholders to share and embed best practice.
- Exploring opportunities for reuse and recycling of materials as appropriate, ensuring that NWUPC helps drive resource efficiency throughout Members' operations.
- Encouraging the reductions of environmental impacts of transport associated with the group and contracted suppliers.
- Communicating and promoting this policy to our staff and members; encouraging them to carry out their activities in a sustainable manner.

Our Sustainability Policy will make suppliers aware of our commitment to achieving this. NWUPC will use its considerable purchasing power to influence the market in delivering reductions in carbon emissions for Members' operations. Moreover, it will also assist in delivering emissions savings across Members' estates as we will be asking bidders to provide details of their impact on the local and global environment.

NWUPC Sustainability Strategy for Contracts and Framework Agreements

NWUPC seeks to promote sustainability in all contracts and framework agreements by:

- Carrying out impact analysis at the research phase and incorporating findings in the Agreement Strategy and evaluation criteria.
- Encouraging suppliers that are ISO 14001 (or equivalent).
- Seeking full details of disposal arrangements for products and in particular ensuring that the WEEE directive is followed and that suitable follow-on best practice for disposal implemented.
- Seeking full details of the supply chain from product source to point of sale.
- Actively encouraging small and medium enterprises (SMEs), local suppliers and specialist suppliers in the tendering process
- Promoting Whole Life Costing where buyers' base assessments on the total cost of ownership, including operating, maintenance and disposal costs as well as purchase price.
- Give preference, where items are of a similar standard and cost, to those that are manufactured with a high recycled content.
- Wherever possible, specify items that can be recycled or reused.
- Encouraging and embedding supplier sustainability throughout the contract management processes.
- Using technology to support sustainable procurement processes such as e-tendering, e-market places and Supplier Engagement Tool.

Endorsement

The Sustainability Policy and the Commitment by NWUPC Ltd is led by the Head of Strategic Procurement. It is fully embedded within all contracting operations and will be carried out by the Category Managers who will consider all relevant sustainability commitments in their Frameworks and ensure they meet the objectives set. This work is fully endorsed and supported by the Managing Director and NWUPC's Board of Directors.

Communication

The Sustainability Policy is publicly available on the NWUPC Ltd's website and is communicated via the e-newsletter. NWUPC is an active member of the UKUPC Responsible Procurement Network which works to drive collaborative sustainability practices throughout the consortia. NWUPC also supports the work of the HEPA National Responsible Procurement Group. NWUPC also produces a voluntary Modern Slavery Statement which is available on the NWUPC Ltd website.