Sustainable procurement

The goods and services that you purchase through your supply chain have an environmental impact through their manufacture, transportation, use and disposal. There are a number of steps that can be taken within an organisation to improve purchasing sustainability and reduce the environmental impacts from your supply chain:



- Agree overarching sustainability objectives for procurement (e.g. "to reduce the transport related emissions of your supply chain").
- Develop a sustainable procurement policy (approved and supported by senior management).
- Communicate policy to staff and to key suppliers.
- Identify a Sustainable Procurement Champion. This should be a senior figure within the organisation that can influence decision making.
- Offer staff basic training in green procurement principles and/or include green procurement as part of the induction programme for key staff.
- Undertake expenditure analysis, identify key sustainablility impacts and investigate whether key spend areas can be made more sustainable.
- Include sustainability criteria in key contracts. Outline which contracts are defined as key and how this selection was made. This could be contracts with high sustainability impacts, high cost or involving long term agreements.
- Consider more than just the capital cost when tendering or purchasing; take into account running costs, maintenance costs and disposal costs.
- Target key suppliers for engagement and views. It is important to engage with key suppliers as early as possible. Find out what they are doing to minimise their environmental impacts.
- Consider working with other Carbon Charter members with a track record of sustainable business practices or look for other environmental credentials from your suppliers.



For further support and details of any opportunities for grant funding please contact a Carbon Charter advisor.