

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT PRACTICES



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WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT?

Sustainable procurement refers to **purchasing goods and services** in a way that achieves value for money on a whole-life basis, while **generating benefits** not only for the organization but also for **society and the environment**.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR SMEs?

Sustainable procurement **helps** SMEs:

- **Reduce** their environmental footprint
- **Align** with EU legislation (e.g., Green Deal, circular economy action plan)
- **Improve** brand reputation and customer trust
- **Gain** access to new, sustainability-focused markets

Helps manage risk, lower long-term costs, and attract eco-conscious investors and partners.



ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA FOR SUPPLIER SELECTION

Environmental criteria should be part of **supplier evaluation** and **contracts**.

Key factors include:

- Use of **renewable energy** and **energy efficiency**
- **Emissions tracking** and **reduction strategies**
- **Sustainable raw materials** and **eco-friendly packaging**
- **Waste reduction** and **water-saving** practices



SOCIAL CRITERIA FOR SUPPLIER SELECTION

Sustainability also means **ensuring ethical labor** and social practices.

When assessing suppliers, **look for:**

- **Respect** for workers' rights (no child or forced labor)
- **Gender equality** and diversity policies
- **Fair wages** and **safe working conditions**
- **Community engagement** or local impact

These practices build **fairness and social justice** into your supply chain.



AUDITING AND MONITORING SUPPLIERS

- Sustainable procurement is not a “**one-time check**”—it’s ongoing.
- Conduct regular supplier **audits** or ask for sustainability self-assessments.
- Develop a **supplier code** of conduct based on ESG (environmental, social, governance) principles.
- Use scorecards and **performance reviews** to guide improvements.
- Work collaboratively with suppliers on **green innovation** and compliance goals.



EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY IN PROCUREMENT PROCESSES

Practical Strategies:

- Include **sustainability requirements** in tenders and contracts
- Use life cycle costing to evaluate **total cost** of ownership
- Prioritize suppliers with **environmental certifications** (e.g., ISO 14001)

Internal Integration:

- **Train** procurement teams
- **Establish** cross-functional sustainability committees



TOOLS AND FRAMEWORKS FOR SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Evaluation Tools:

- Supplier sustainability scorecards
- Green procurement guidelines
- Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)

Frameworks:

- ISO 20400 (Sustainable Procurement Standard)
- EU GPP (Green Public Procurement) Toolkit



CIRCULAR PROCUREMENT AND PRODUCT SUSTAINABILITY

Support the **circular economy** by buying goods that can be **reused, repaired, or recycled**.

Choose suppliers who offer:

- Refillable or returnable packaging
- Take-back or recycling services
- Modular or upgradeable products (e.g., electronics)

Circular thinking **reduces waste** and **raw material** dependency.



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