

Responsible Procurement Policy for Brunel University of London

1. Introduction

Brunel University of London (BUoL) is committed to sustainability in procurement, ensuring that all procurement activities align with our mission to minimise environmental impact, support social responsibility, and promote economic efficiency. This policy addresses legal, ethical, and environmental obligations in our supply chain and operations.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all procurement activities undertaken by the university, including goods, services, and works. It is intended for all staff involved in procurement and applies to external suppliers, contractors, and service providers.

For contracts exceeding £50,000 excluding VAT suppliers are expected to adhere and sign the Supply Chain Code of Conduct, which outlines the University's requirements regarding social, environmental and ethical standards across the supply chain.

3. Key Principles

- **Environmental Sustainability:** Reducing carbon emissions in the supply chain, promoting energy efficiency, adopting circular economy practices, increasing biodiversity and minimising waste.
- **Social Responsibility:** Encouraging equality, diversity, elimination of modern slavery, fair labour practices and community engagement.
- **Economic Responsibility:** Ensuring value for money while fostering innovation and supporting sustainable suppliers.

4. Objectives

4.1 Environmental Compliance and Resource Efficiency

- Ensure compliance with all relevant environmental regulations and follow best practices in sustainability.
- Promote the efficient use of resources, including raw materials and manufactured products.
- Eliminate or minimise single-use items such as plastics, packaging and paper.

4.2 Carbon Reduction

- Prioritise energy-efficient and low-carbon products and services.
- Actively measure, manage and work to reduce the carbon impact of our supply chain.
- Implement a transport strategy promoting sustainable movement of goods and services.

4.3 Circular Economy and Waste Reduction

- Integrate circular economy principles in procurement decisions.
- Procure modular, repairable and manufacturable products.
- Reduce waste through prevention, reuse and recycling initiatives.
- Commit to minimising landfill waste and achieving zero waste to landfill where possible.

4.4 Ethical and Social Standards

- Ensure all suppliers comply with the Supply Chain Code of Conduct, which mandates responsible labour practices, fair wages and a commitment to anti-slavery principles.
- Require suppliers to provide transparency in their supply chains and take proactive steps to ensure ethical compliance.
- Encourage suppliers to adopt policies on diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity.

4.5 Innovation and Collaboration

- Foster collaboration with suppliers to improve sustainability performance and align with university goals.
- Engage with local businesses and small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) to support regional economic sustainability.
- Promote supplier innovation through regular engagement and feedback.

4.6 Continuous Improvement

- Regularly review environmental policies and procurement practices to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness.

5. Implementation Framework

5.1 Procedures

- Procurement teams will use a combination of pass/fail criteria and weighted scoring to evaluate suppliers' environmental and social performance.
- Tenders will be required to include lifecycle costing and sustainability impact assessments.
- The procedures under clause 5.1 are applicable to contracts value exceeding £50,000 excluding VAT.

5.2 Training and Awareness

- Staff training on sustainable procurement practices will be provided.

- Industry advancements and best practices will be regularly monitored and integrated into procurement processes.

5.3 Supplier Development

- Partner with suppliers to enhance their sustainability efforts and ensure adherence to the Supply Chain Code of Conduct.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Policy Reviews:** The policy will be reviewed annually to incorporate emerging best practices and legislative updates.

7. Governance

The policy will be endorsed by the Sustainability Sub Committee, owned by Procurement and implemented with input from relevant stakeholders across the university.

8. Compliance

Failure to comply with this policy may result in contractual reviews or corrective action to ensure adherence to BUoL's sustainability commitments.

9. Alignment with National Policies

This policy aligns with the UK government's sustainability frameworks, including the Department for Education's SCEF Programme and supports BUoL's 2040 Net Zero Carbon target.