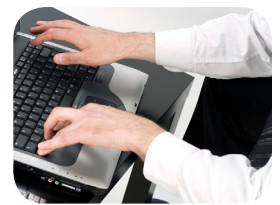




The purpose of a green procurement policy is to state an organization's commitment to reducing their environmental impact when purchasing products and services. A green procurement policy introduces an environmental dimension to the procurement process but does not change how the organization does its business.



WHY A GREEN PROCUREMENT POLICY?

A green procurement policy will help reduce an organization's consumption, reduce waste going to the landfill, decrease carbon emissions, and improve the organization's overall impact on the environment. In addition, a new policy may also offer significant cost savings to the organization,

“ We choose to give our love (and money) to suppliers that respect the environment, as well as the animals and people living there. We're pretty sure we drive our suppliers crazy in our pursuit to find the best possible alternatives for materials and supplies available on the market. In one year, responsible buying of recycled supplies for our offices helped us save over 300 trees, 135,000 gallons of water, 675 gallons of oil and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 28,000 CO₂ equivalents . ”

LUSH Canada
Makers of natural, organic bath and beauty products.

increase staff morale, and improve the public image of the organization. Furthermore, green products are generally produced in a manner that consumes fewer natural resources or uses them more sustainably.

GETTING STARTED

The scope of the policy will depend on the organization's specific requirements and areas of focus. Below are some suggested areas:

- Consider all stages of a product's life cycle: production, distribution, consumption, and disposal to help make the best purchasing choices.
- Purchase products that are durable, reusable, recyclable, and/or compostable.
- Purchase products that contain post-consumer recycled content and that are sustainably produced.
- Purchase products that conserve water and energy, and reduce carbon emissions.



- Seek product vendors that reuse or recycle products at the end of their useful life through “take-back” or Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs.
- Purchase products that minimize toxins, pollution, and hazards to employees.
- Seek local products and services before looking outside the province and/or country.
- Only purchase new products when all similar supplies in the office inventory have been used.
- Consider renting infrequently used items rather than purchasing.
- When renewing contracts with existing suppliers, implement your green procurement policy as part of the contract.
- Seek alternative solutions to existing daily cleaning methods (e.g. consider using cloth napkins at board meetings or reusable hand towels and cloths in the kitchen).
- Be aware of “greenwashing” – misleading perceptions or claims that goods and services are environmentally friendly that may not be accurate. Ask questions and investigate companies and products for yourself.

When purchasing items, look for “green” certifications such as:



Cradle-to-cradle

www.c2ccertified.com



Energy Star

www.energystar.nrcan.gc.ca



Forest Stewardship Council

www.fsc.org



Green Guard

www.greenguard.org



Green Seal

www.greenseal.org



Eco-logo

www.ecologo.org

It is in everyone's best interest to keep workplace air pollution at a minimum. New carpets, furniture, building materials, fragrances, and synthetic cleaning products all have the potential to give off harmful chemical fumes. These products can trigger allergies, asthma, sinus irritation, fatigue, and nausea, leading to poor work performance, reduced productivity, and absenteeism. Before purchasing items for the office, inquire about how the product was made or ask to see a list of ingredients, and make sure you understand the information. (Canadian Lung Association)





EDUCATING STAFF

While there may be some resistance to a new policy, it should be communicated to all employees that the benefits of implementing the policy far outweigh the challenges. Successful implementation of a green procurement policy requires commitment at all levels of the organization. Ensure that management leads by example.

Green procurement requires an understanding of environmental benefits and future reduction in costs; therefore, developing an educational plan should be considered a critical component of implementing the policy. Changing long-standing purchasing habits and procedures can be a challenge, but providing simple tips and frequent reminders will make the policy's new methods become second nature.

BENEFITS OF A GREEN PROCUREMENT POLICY

A green procurement policy will reduce an organization's consumption, reduce waste, decrease carbon emissions, and reduce the overall impact on the environment.

In addition, the policy may also offer significant cost savings to the organization, increase staff morale, and improve the public image of the organization.

By sharing the green procurement policy with key stakeholders, there is an opportunity to create positive environmental change within the province.

By showing a demand for sustainable products, the organization can assist in shifting suppliers towards more sustainable practices and increasing the availability of environmentally responsible products in Newfoundland and Labrador.



Your clients will support you in green purchasing and manufacturing decisions!

8 out of 10 Canadians agree they would be willing to pay more for a product if it is produced in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

Business Case for Sustainability – Corostrandberg.com