

Sustainable Procurement Research

Sustainable Procurement in Saskatoon

In the City of Saskatoon's (City) *Purchasing Policy C02-045*, sustainable procurement is described in economic, environmental, and social terms:

“Economic Sustainability means providing and enhancing the Services, infrastructure and conditions that sustain a healthy, diverse and resilient local economy in which businesses of all sizes, and their employees, can flourish.”

“Environmental Sustainability means protecting and enhancing the climate, ecology and natural resources for future generations through approaches that reduce carbon dependency, enhance energy resilience, conserve energy and resources and reduce waste and toxins.”

“Social Sustainability means cultivating and sustaining vibrant, creative, safe, affordable and caring communities for the wide diversity of individuals and families who live in, work in, and visit the City.”

The City's [Purchasing Policy](#) states: “the City's procurement activities will be conducted with consideration of Economic, Environmental and Social Sustainability where practical”. With the City's purchasing power, we can increase the success measures of sustainable procurement by helping to build capacity in our suppliers, contractors, businesses, and industries to work more sustainably. Sustainable procurement also facilitates achieving other corporate targets and commitments, such as lowering emissions, diversifying suppliers, and reducing waste, more quickly.

The City's Supply Chain Management Department will continue working on sustainable procurement as it centralizes and optimizes the City's procurement through strategic procurement.

Sustainable and Strategic Procurement Best Practises

Best Practices are emerging to guide us in the development of sustainable procurement practises and approaches. Supply Chain Management is incorporating many of these best practises into their processes though their work on strategic procurement. Strategic procurement involves identifying key area of spending within the business and identifying ways of adding value through procurement processes. This can be achieved by analysing the company's purchasing needs and current spend, creating a procurement strategy, and selecting and negotiating with suppliers. It also includes activities such as category management.

[THE BUCK STARTS HERE Sustainable Procurement Playbook for Cities](#) (USDN 2016) and the [2019 Annual Report on the State of Sustainable Public Procurement in Canada](#) (Reeve Consulting, 2020) provide sustainable procurement best practises, including:

- Sustainable procurement is most successful when done as a team effort which includes sustainability staff and end-using department staff.
- Prioritize upcoming procurements or category of procurements (e.g., cleaning supplies, electronics) to implement sustainable procurement on highest-

impacting opportunities (high-spend, easy to implement, likely to yield multiple benefits).

- Embed sustainable procurement in templates, specifications, and standardized forms as much as possible, reference third-party certifications, pre-qualifications, or standards when available.
- Develop lists of social, diverse, and Indigenous vendors – for example suppliers that are non-profits, or equity-seeking (women, members of visible minorities, persons with disabilities) or Indigenous owned/operated.
- Track and report activities and impacts; identify key performance indicators such as number and dollar value of new contracts and number of sustainable products purchased.
- Highlight success stories such as replacing the cities streetlights – what are the impacts and savings?
- Engage with other organizations, such as the [Canadian Collaboration for Sustainable Procurement](#), to share knowledge and overcome challenges.