

## What is Sustainable Procurement?

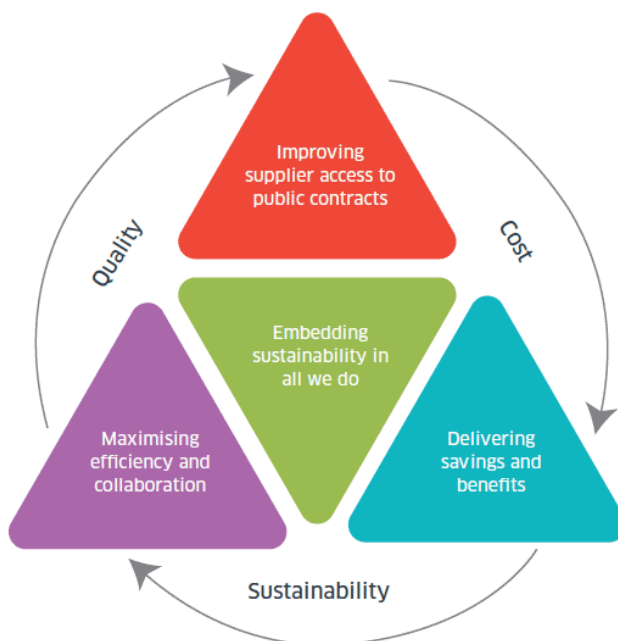
The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) defines Sustainable Procurement as:

“A process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole-life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment.”

## Does Procurement Legislation Apply?

Public Procurement in Scotland aims to consider not only quality and cost, but also sustainability factors in the purchasing of the good or service.”

Figure 1 Scottish Model of Procurement



As a public sector organisation, under section nine of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, we have a duty to consider how we can do each of the following things before conducting a regulated procurement;

- “(i) improve the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of the authority’s area,
  - (ii) facilitate the involvement of small and medium enterprises, third sector bodies and supported businesses in the process, and
  - (iii) promote innovation, and
- (b) in carrying out the procurement, to act with a view to securing such improvements identified as a result of paragraph (a)(i).”

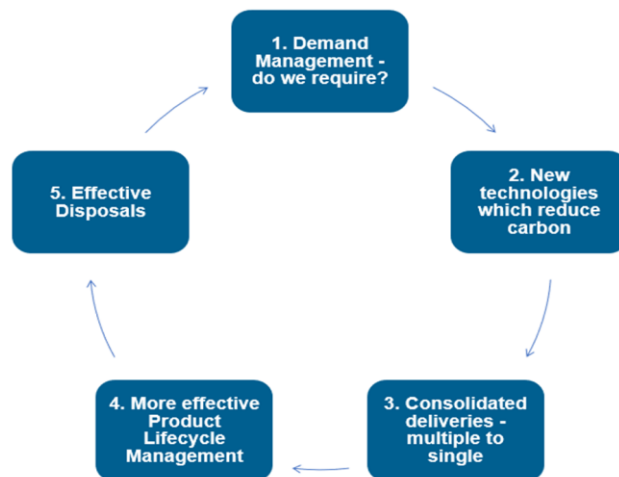
SDS, as a public sector organisation must be able to demonstrate that we have considered sustainability in our requirements for Regulated Procurements, to ensure that we comply with the Act. This is normally via the completion of the Contract Strategy.

## How Does SDS Ensure Best Value?

In terms of Sustainable Procurement we look to take forward good behaviours across SDS as a whole. The table below summarises the basic questions we should ask for each procurement.

Basic Questions Why / What / When & from where ?	Good Behaviours	Further Guidance
<b>WHY do we require to buy the goods or services?</b>	Demand Management is defined as “the alignment of a business’ consumption with its business requirements”. We ALL require to challenge conspicuous consumption	Link to <a href="#">Demand Management BPGN</a>
<b>WHAT do we buy?</b>	Adhere to Government Buying Standards for relevant categories of spend, to mandate minimum specification requirements, including environmentally preferable products. Specify environmentally preferable products eg LED lights. Adopt new technologies which reduce carbon Business areas define the business needs and develop environmentally friendly specifications.	Link to <a href="#">DEFRA Govt buying stds</a>
<b>WHEN do we buy?</b>	Are we consolidating requirements to reduce the number of deliveries of office requirements, for example monthly deliveries rather than weekly.	<a href="#">Minimum order values</a>
<b>WHERE do we buy?</b>	SDS has a large % of expenditure with Scottish SMEs Divide requirements into multi-lots to provide greater opportunities to SMEs rather than global Titans	<a href="#">Sustainable Procurement Duty</a> – triple bottom line

SDS has developed (April 2020) a five step Sustainable Procurement Cycle from initiation through Demand Management – From whether we actually require the goods through to the effective disposal of redundant goods through reuse, recycling or WEEE compliant disposal.



## Which Procurements Do We Prioritise for Sustainability Factors?

The Scottish Government has produced a Sustainable Procurement Toolkit to aid Public Sector Buyers to identify and address how they can optimise the economic, social and environmental outcomes of their procurement activity. The key tool in this toolkit is the Prioritisation Tool. Each of the Procurement Managers within SDS has run this tool for their categories of spend to identify the contracts where we have the opportunity to achieve the highest sustainability impact. This tool considers actual spend, risk, scope and influence in environmental factors (climate change, materials, waste, hazardous materials, biodiversity, heritage, water) and socio-economic factors (employment skills and training, communities, equality, fair work, ethical trading, health and wellbeing, security and crime) in its prioritisation methodology. This aims to ensure that appropriate focus is placed on identified priorities within commodity planning.

Procurement staff use the Scottish Government National Procurement Competency Framework to assess any areas within sustainability that can be an area of focus for their continuous professional development relevant to their role within the team. This includes a focus on economic, social and environmental issues and innovation.

## How Does Our Approach Tie-In Internationally?

The United Nations has a 17 Sustainable Development Goals at the heart of its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These are “global goals” adopted by all UN member states in 2015. Scotland have embedded the goals through their National Performance Framework who have adopted the goals are aiming to achieve by 2030.

The two United Nations Goals specific to Procurement and Supply Chain are goals 9 and 12 detailed below:

UN Sustainable Development Goals	SDS Sustainable Procurement Lifecycle
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure - build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation	New technologies which reduce carbon consumption eg Azure
12. Responsible Consumption and Production - ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Demand Management (Why Buy?) Disposals Policy More effective product lifecycle management

## Modern Slavery

As part of our commitment to Sustainable Procurement, we have taken measures to mitigate any risk of Modern Slavery in our supply chains [Best Practice Guidance Note 10 - Modern Slavery in Procurement](#)

## Further Information

<https://www.carbontrust.com/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sustainable-procurement-the-government-buying-standards-gbs>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/sustainable-procurement-duty-tools/>

If you have any queries, please contact [procurement@sds.co.uk](mailto:procurement@sds.co.uk)