

## Introduction

The University recognises that procurement decisions have major socio-economic and environmental impacts, both locally, nationally and globally, not only now, but also for future generations.

The University strives to be a socially and environmentally responsible institution, ensuring that its buildings are constructed and maintained to high environmental standards and that renewable energy is used wherever it is economically feasible to do so. The University is working to reduce its environmental footprint through responsible utilities and waste management and by developing and implementing a [Sustainable Travel Plan 2014-20](#).

## Corporate Governance

This policy is aligned with the University Strategy 2017-2027 (<https://www.dur.ac.uk/strategy2027/>) and supports the vision of “**wanting the University we love and treasure to grow and develop, so that it is sustainable, pioneering and transformational in all areas for decades to come**”

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to support the University's overarching strategy and ensure that staff involved in the procurement of goods, services and works throughout the University consider appropriate environmental, social and economic factors in their purchasing decisions.

## Commitment

In order to ensure that procurement activities are carried out in a safe, environmentally responsible and sustainable manner, the Procurement Service will:

- Be compliant with all relevant legislation including the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012
- Train and educate staff on sustainable procurement and provide tools and procedures to assist.
- Communicate the policy to University staff, students and key/relevant suppliers
- Ensure that where possible, sustainability criteria are included in the award of contracts
- Consider Whole-Life Cost (WLC) and Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) when making procurement decisions.
- Ensure that the procurement of goods, such as IT equipment sustainability and energy efficiency are key procurement factors, along with health and safety requirements.
- Stimulate innovation and ongoing research and development activities in the supply chain to drive value for money and positive, viable, sustainable options for goods, works and services in the future.
- Utilise tools such as NetPositive Futures through contract management to support and encourage suppliers to enhance the positive social, economic and environmental impacts of their business through the creation of action plans.
- Work proactively with Purchasing Consortia, and engagement with other universities to share best practices.
- Consider products that are 'fairly traded'.
- Work with relevant staff and departments to promote the use of [WARPiT](#) for re-use of goods rather than procuring new and reducing consumption and the impact of goods, services and works through waste minimisation including packaging waste.
- Where appropriate, consider local suppliers, SMEs, Black and Ethnic Minority Businesses, Social Enterprises, the Voluntary Sector to do business with the University

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- Work with Professional Support Service colleagues and with Greenspace to continually look to improve social responsibility, environmental sustainability, and the sustainability of the University and its resources.
- Develop more sustainable approaches to food provision which consider the impact on the community, the environment and the local/regional economy in the way food is produced, processed and distributed, and reduce food waste.
- Reduce the impact of purchasing and supply activities by reducing paper flow through the procurement process, avoiding replication and minimising the administrative burden on suppliers.