

Sustainable procurement Policy

TECS Group provide facilities management and compliance services to both public and private sector customers throughout the UK.

There is a social dimension to our work, through our relationships with suppliers and the local communities in which we operate. We are therefore committed to understanding and managing the environmental and social impacts of our operations, including the procurement of goods and services.

Ensuring sustainability is embedded across every function, including procurement, is essential to our goal of making a sustainable contribution to society. This policy explains how we will integrate environmental and social considerations into its procurement policies and practices. We recognise that improving our procurement performance is an on-going process and that our suppliers, both large and small, are important partners in our journey to become more sustainable.

TECS Group aims and objectives are to:

- Minimise our environmental impact and deliver community benefits through better selection and improved usage of products and services;
- Foster innovation in our supply markets to increase the availability and effectiveness of sustainable solutions that meet our organisational requirements;
- Encourage our suppliers to adopt practices that minimise their environmental impact and deliver community benefits in relation to their own operations and throughout the supply chains in which they operate;
- Work in partnership with suppliers to achieve our common goals and continually improve performance over time.

Supplier Code of Conduct

As the contracting organisation, we expect our suppliers to ensure their practices are supportive of our approach. We expect to purchase goods and services that have been produced or are delivered with minimum impact on the environment and with due regard for social issues such as employment conditions and welfare. As a result, TECS reserves the right to refuse partnerships with organisations that do not achieve (or are unable to provide evidence of an action plan to address) the following minimum standards for their operations, employees and supply chain.

Supplier Diversity

It is TECS Group policy to encourage a diverse range of suppliers to tender to provide services, materials or expertise and our aim is to give equal opportunities to suppliers owned by under-represented groups. This enables us to contribute to increased social inclusion, whilst tapping into alternative sources to define the needs of the countryside and the aspirations of currently under-represented groups.

Environment

Processes are in place to actively improve the efficiency with which finite resources (such as energy, water, raw materials) are used and the release of harmful emissions to the environment associated with manufacture, use and end-of-life product management are minimised.

Working Principles

We will ensure all key procurement decisions and actions are considered to ensure the most sustainable outcomes are achieved;

Appropriate environmental and social requirements will be integrated into all procurement activities.

We will adopt a pragmatic approach to encouraging and influencing our suppliers to improve their sustainability practice.

Whilst this policy applies to all TECS suppliers, we will strive to ensure that it does not place unnecessary and over burdensome requirements on small to medium enterprises (SME), putting them at a disadvantage in doing business with us.

As required, we will establish performance agreements with our key strategic suppliers, monitor their progress over time, and provide them with regular and constructive feedback.

As far as possible, we will conduct our procurement activities to support and deliver community benefits and will work in partnership with other organisations to achieve this.

Accountability

TECS offices and relevant members of staff have shared responsibility for integrating the provisions of this policy into their decision-making.

We will review this policy and associated procedures on an annual basis and involve our suppliers in this process.

We will verify our performance against this policy whenever possible.

We will monitor and report where appropriate the environmental and social outcomes achieved from the application of our policy across our operations; and

We will report on our progress in implementing this policy, on an annual basis.