



Procurement Considerations

The Four Pillars of Sustainability

Social

Social sustainability refers to the well-being and equitable treatment of people within and outside of an organization.

When it comes to procurement, a socially sustainable procurement strategy focuses on sourcing products and services from suppliers who prioritize ethical labour practices, human rights, and social responsibility.

Here are a few ways in which social sustainability can be incorporated into the procurement strategy:

1. **Supplier Code of Conduct:** A supplier code of conduct outlines the expectations and requirements for ethical and socially responsible behaviour from suppliers. Procurement teams can develop a code of conduct that includes social sustainability criteria such as fair labour practices, non-discrimination, and community engagement, and require their suppliers to comply with these standards. The below areas should be addressed in the Code:
 - A. Integrity, ethics, and conduct
 - B. Conflict of interest; gifts, benefits, and hospitality
 - C. Corporate governance
 - D. Labor and human rights
 - E. Health and safety
 - F. Environmental management
2. **Supplier Assessment:** The Procurement team will assess suppliers' social sustainability performance by using third-party audits or self-assessment questionnaires. The assessment can evaluate suppliers' labour practices, human rights, and community engagement, among other social sustainability criteria, to ensure they align with the organization's values and goals.
3. **Supplier Engagement:** The Procurement team will engage with suppliers to encourage socially responsible behaviour. This could involve working with suppliers to improve their social sustainability performance, promoting collaboration to address common social sustainability challenges, and building long-term relationships with suppliers committed to social sustainability.
4. **Supporting Local Suppliers:** The Procurement team will support local suppliers that provide products and services that align with the organization's social sustainability values. By prioritizing local suppliers, procurement teams can contribute to the local economy, create jobs, and reduce the environmental impact associated with long-distance transportation.

By incorporating social sustainability into their procurement strategy, your organisation can promote responsible business practices, support the well-being of people, and contribute to building sustainable communities.