

UWinnipeg Sustainable Procurement

The University of Winnipeg's new sustainability strategy includes a target of further aligning procurement procedures with organizational values. This means being attentive to the actions of our suppliers towards people and the planet. It means supporting more sustainable businesses and promoting the University's Indigenization goals through our procurement process. This does not mean choosing excessively expensive goods, but rather incorporating full-life cost rather than bottom line price when making procurement decisions. As a large purchaser, UWinnipeg has the ability to ask for better from our suppliers. We have the ability to influence suppliers to continue to improve the impacts of their organizations. By emphasizing the purchase of more sustainable goods and services, we can help nudge the market towards new and innovative ways of doing business. This is the vision for UWinnipeg procurement.

Considering sustainability

The best way to reduce our impact from procurement is to purchase less; this means reusing, reducing and recycling items purchased. When new goods are being purchased it is important to research potential suppliers. It can be damaging to UWinnipeg's reputation if we are connected to organizations who are negligent toward the environment, their employees, or their neighbours. It is a good sign if an organization has an environmental management system, sustainability policy, and mandate that promotes the protection and improvement of the communities in which it operates.

Other things to look for:

- Does the organization have a commitment to reduce its GHG emissions?
- Does the organization promote fair labour practices in its operations and supply chain?
- Are products packaged in a way that minimizes unnecessary waste?
- Are recycled or reclaimed materials utilized in manufacturing?
- Does the organization support community development or disadvantaged groups?

Sustainable Certifications

The following is a (non-exclusive) list of reputable sustainable certifications that purchasers are encouraged to favour in purchasing decisions:

- EnergyStar
- WaterSense
- Cradle to Cradle
- Green Seal
- Green Guard
- Canadian Organic
- USDA
- Fair Trade
- Rainforest Alliance
- Forest Stewardship Council
- EcoLogo
- EPEAT

- Workers Rights Consortium
- Fair Labour Association
- B Corporation
- Bluesign
- Certipur
- Climate Registered
- EQUITRADE
- GoodWeave
- Level
- SCS

Product Specific Criteria

The list below provides some basic guidelines for things to look for when purchasing specific items with University funds.

1. Office and Deskware (Paper and Pen products):

- Note that when you purchase office supplies online from your OfficeMax University of Winnipeg Account, more sustainable options appear first.
- Paper containing 100% post-consumer waste and be Forest Stewardship Council certified
- Soy, vegetable, or water based inks
- Portfolio covers made of >50% recycled plastic
- Pens with a body made of bio-plastic or 100% post-consumer waste paper or recycled plastic
Did you know: UWinnipeg purchases 100% post-consumer recycled paper?

2. Hand Soap

- Avoid antimicrobial agents
- EcoLogo or Green Seal certified

3. Clothing

- Provide the University's code of conduct to bidders for review and signature confirming compliance with WRC standards.
- Certified organic natural fibres (wool, cotton, linen); OR highly renewable fibres (bamboo, hemp); OR low-impact recycled synthetic fibres (polyester)
- Manufactured using non-toxic or reduced toxicity fiber processes, treatments and dyes
- Garments can be easily laundered and thoroughly cleaned in cool water using environmentally friendly detergents and bleaches
- Design and color choices aimed at longevity rather than planned obsolescence

4. Plastic Drinkware (Travel mugs, sports bottles)

- BPA free, Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) free, and made from at least 15% recycled content
- Packaging made up of 100% post-consumer waste materials

5. Miscellaneous

- Cloth bags and totes made from certified organic cotton, highly renewable fibers (eg. Hemp, bamboo), and/or recycled synthetic fibres
- Lanyards made from recycled cotton or 100% recycled plastic
- Metal based promotional products must be lead free
- Electronics (flashlights, tire pressure gauges, calculators, radio) should contain no batteries, using solar or crank power
- Should contain LED light bulbs

6. Gifts and recognition (plaques and magnets)

- Wood parts should be bamboo or sustainable wood products (FSC Certified)
- Paper magnets should be 100% post-consumer waste fibers
- Frames, plaques, etc should be lead free and use recycled glass as possible

7. Coffee

- Shade grown
- Certified organic
- Fair Trade certified or Direct Trade

8. Tea:

- Certified Organic
- Fair Trade certified or Direct Trade