

Sustainable Procurement in FHE

Project Start Partner Baseline Survey Research Findings Summary

Year 1 December 2005

Environmental Association for
Universities and Colleges



Sustainable Procurement Findings of Baseline Survey

The survey was designed to cover 3 important areas for the project.

- Management and policy framework
- How purchasing is organized
- Understanding of current practice

- Policies – Do you have them in place?
 - 10/16 Environmental Policy
 - 12/16 Purchasing Policy
 - 3/16 Sustainable Purchasing Policy
 - 2/16 Sustainable Development Policy
 - 6/16 Environmental Purchasing Policy
 - 1/16 CSR Policy
 - Some specific policies 3 Energy, 4 Recycling, 4 WLC

- Individual responsibility – Has it been allocated?
 - 13/16 Environment
 - 11/16 Environment within Purchasing

- Management Commitment – is it in place?
 - 12/16 Management committed
 - Based on what? – Commitment to this project
 - If not why not – cost, no resources it will cost more money etc
 -

- Environment or SD Team in place?
 - 10/16 Meets regularly
 - 6/16 Looked at procurement
 - 7/16 Have some student involvement
 -

- Central purchasing team – Do you have?
 - 11/16 Yes
 - sometimes very small - 1 average around 4-5

- Devolved purchasing
 - 14/16 Yes
 - 20 – 1000 -numbers of devolved purchasers

- Purchasing guidance
 - 14/16 Yes

- 8/16 Provide guidance on SD/Environmental issues
- How is guidance communicated?
 - Web site, face to face, manuals
- Percentage of purchasing spend centrally controlled
 - 5 below 50%
 - 7 above 50%
- Do you have responsibility for any specific purchases?
 - 12/16 Yes
- Have you been trained on sustainable purchasing?
 - 19 people from 16 institutions (15 as part of LSDA project)
- Are you a member of a purchasing consortium?
 - 15/16 Yes
 - 12/16 Said the consortium has env / soc policies in place
 - Confusion as to how this has influenced specific commodities – more work needed
- Do you include environmental and social considerations in any of your purchasing decisions?
 - 14/16 Yes
- Have you used a risk based approach?
 - 2/16 Yes
 - 5/16 Said students had influenced purchasing decisions
- Supplier engagement
 - 7/16 Engage with suppliers on environmental and social issues
 - 7/16 Use some form of questionnaire

Summary

- Some good practice
- Lots of activity in a variety of places
- Opportunities to share between institutions
- Lack of general awareness
- Environmental focus rather than sustainability or CSR
- Challenge of devolved purchasers