

TITLE:

## Blackpool and The Fylde College: Sustainable Procurement – Building Capacity

DATE: July 2008

**BLACKPOOL AND THE FYLDE COLLEGE**  
An Associate College of Lancaster University



### INSTITUTION PROFILE

FE & HE

7000 FTE Students

1400 staff

Urban

20 Buildings on 5 sites

### SUMMARY

Blackpool and The Fylde College is a project partner in the EAUC sustainable procurement project. The college was keen to ensure that staff with procurement responsibility were trained to consider both sustainability and corporate social responsibility as part of the procurement process.

This case study deals with issues in achieving this goal and ensuring that this initiative was successful.

### EAUC COMMENT

This case study demonstrates how a college can really influence the way it's members of staff think about sustainability through training and the implementation of a strong procurement policy.

## THE PROBLEM

Blackpool and The Fylde College operates a devolved procurement system and needed to make certain that all staff with procurement responsibility were aware of the impacts of their procurement decisions. It wanted to empower staff to think differently when making procurement choices.

The Procurement Team also recognised that in order to encourage sustainable procurement the college's Senior Management Team would need to be engaged to ensure that the proposed developments were supported and to make sure the message was consistent.

## THE APPROACH

The Procurement Team presented a report with a future perspective to its Management Forum colleagues – assuming it was 2009 and highlighting the achievements of the sustainable procurement project, linked to the Flexible Framework requirements set out in Procuring The Future.

The presentation detailed all of the supporting work - strategies, policies and action plans - that were put in place to achieve these goals and left a positive impression of what would actually be achieved by the college by 2009.

A training day in association with EAUC in October 2007 trained 30 staff on the new approach and all staff received copies of the new Sustainable Procurement and Social Responsibility Policy.

## OUR GOALS

- To ensure that sustainable procurement and corporate social responsibility are embedded practices at Blackpool and The Fylde College
- To ensure that all staff with procurement responsibility are trained in this area
- To measure the impact of sustainable procurement and report to stakeholders
- To be recognised as a leader within the Further Education sector in this area

## OBSTACLES AND SOLUTIONS

### Obstacles

- How to ensure senior management buy-in
- Understanding what sustainable procurement and corporate social responsibility actually entail
- Resourcing and implementation
- Measuring progress

### Solutions

- A creative presentation showed the management team what was possible and inspired them to support the initiative and cascade the relevant information
- There is a vast range of material from this project available via the EAUC website – [www.eauc.org.uk](http://www.eauc.org.uk)
- The college needs to appoint a champion who is genuinely interested in making a difference to the way that the college procures goods and services. Training and staff development programmes will ensure the policy is properly implemented and continued
- Regular reports to the college's Sustainable Development Committee document progress. All minutes are shared on the intranet

## PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS

- Measurement against the flexible framework has seen level one standards achieved and surpassed in some areas
- College tender documentation now incorporates a sustainable procurement and Corporate Social Responsibility questionnaire which is weighted and scored as part of the overall tender analysis
- Sustainability information received from suppliers under contract will be loaded onto the college intranet
- The work undertaken by the procurement team has impacted college-wide and is now helping to drive the work of the Sustainable Development Committee

## LESSONS LEARNT

- Board level and senior management buy-in is critical to success
- A sustainable procurement champion is key
- There are resources available to help develop strategies and policies. Don't re-invent wheels
- Colleagues need to be empowered to make decisions and to report good practice which should then be disseminated internally
- Staff development should include a briefing in this area either as part of inductions or as a separate session
- By collaboration with the Sustainable Development Committee, a whole range of new initiatives have been identified and projects put in place for both procurement and the wider sustainable agenda
- Change needs to be driven and commitment needs to be 100% to meet the targets under the flexible framework

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about this initiative at Blackpool and The Fylde College contact:

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The Environmental and Sustainability Champion within Further and Higher Education in the United Kingdom.

The EAUC provides training, advice and support to our members as well as providing a forum for best practice in the sector.

To join phone 01242 714321

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