

# Sustainable Purchasing Report

## Sustainable And Ethical Procurement (def.)

Meeting the social, environmental and economic needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Over the past year the **BBOT's Environmental Sustainability Committee** has undertaken research to understand the **impact of sustainable procurement** and the **barriers and opportunities** for businesses in implementing and embedding it within their organizations both large and small.

Purchasing decisions have a direct impact not only on the environment and human health, but also on the quantity of waste your business produces, your customer base and your company image.

**Thoughtful procurement strategies can transform your business and help you meet Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) objectives while also having a positive impact on our communities and environment.** Ethical, social and environmental considerations and criteria can have a significant impact on your business, employee and client relations and your community.

## The Business Case For Sustainable Purchasing

Depending on the nature and scope of your sustainable purchasing program, you can generate a number of benefits for your business.

### BY BUYING GREEN PRODUCTS YOU CAN:

- reduce utility and material costs
- reduce costs of waste disposal
- reduce operating/maintenance costs
- increase operational/economic efficiencies
- build employee morale
- enhance supplier due diligence and promote innovation

A PricewaterhouseCoopers study finds the financial payback can range from 6 to 85 times the investment in a sustainable procurement program. These returns are generated by the following value drivers:



More efficient products, reduction of consumption, reduced over-specification, reduced compliance costs.

Direct costs (such as product recall, financial penalties) and indirect costs (such as child labour and local pollution)

Additional revenue from existing and new markets (via eco-innovation, sustainable products/services).

*\*Value of Sustainable Procurement Practices: A quantitative analysis of value drivers associated with Sustainable Procurement Practices,\* PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ecovadis and INSEAD, 2010.*

### SUSTAINABLE AND SOCIAL PROCUREMENT CAN:

- foster improved wages and working conditions
- advance human rights
- enhance conditions in developing countries
- improve employee health and safety
- promote a strong local and co-operative economy
- support vulnerable groups (Aboriginal people/people facing employment barriers)

## Questions To Ask Before Purchasing A Product

- Do we need it? Can we do without it?
- Can we borrow it, rent or get it gently used?
- How much should we buy so we don't have more than we need?
- Can it be smaller, lighter or made from fewer materials?
- Is it energy efficient?
- Does it reduce the amount of waste destined to landfill?
- Is it locally manufactured?
- Is it made with post-consumer recycled or reclaimed materials?
- Can it be recycled?
- Is it designed to be durable or multi-functional?
- Is it made with less energy?
- Is it available in a less toxic form?
- Is it possible to reduce the amount of packaging used to transport the product?
- Is the product and/or packaging refillable, recyclable or repairable?
- Are materials a naturally occurring, renewable and sustainable resource?
- Is reuse practical and encouraged?
- Will the supplier take it back at the end of its useful life?
- Is it made by a social enterprise, co-operative or fair trade organization?
- What were the health, safety and environmental conditions under which it was manufactured?
- Under what health, safety and environmental conditions which it was manufactured?
- What are the social and environmental practices of the firm that produced it?

Adapted from Industry Canada SME Sustainability Roadmap: [ic.gc.ca/eic/site/csr\\_rse.nsf/eng/rs00179](http://ic.gc.ca/eic/site/csr_rse.nsf/eng/rs00179)

## Resources

See resources below to help get you started on the road to sustainable procurement.

## GENERAL:

[Sustainability Roadmap](#) courtesy of the Government of Canada

[Ethical Purchasing](#) courtesy of the Government of Canada

[Buy Local, BC](#)

[Fair Trade Canada](#)

[Busy Social Canada](#) brings purchasers/social enterprise suppliers together, building business/community relationships

[Buy Social Canada Directory](#)

[Purchasing Guide For Small to Medium Businesses](#)

[BuySmart Network](#) key source of information and education on sustainable purchasing

[Vancouver Economic Commission | Green Economy](#)

[Cradle to Cradle Products Registry](#)

[Material Health Registry](#)

[Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute](#)

[Cradle to Cradle Innovation Stories](#)

[Resource Abundance By Design](#)

## INDIGENOUS & ABORIGINAL:

[Indigenous Business Directory](#) courtesy of the Government of Canada

[Indigenous Business and Investment Council](#) promotes indigenous participation in the business economy

[Province of BC | Aboriginal Organizations and Services](#) community-based services and organizations

[Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business](#) fosters sustainable business relations

[Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier](#) promotes economy via inclusion of Aboriginal/minority suppliers

[Government of Canada Aboriginal Business Directory](#)

## CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

[Forest Stewardship Council](#) serving those interested in using responsibly-sourced wood products

[BOMA BC](#) Building Owners and Managers Association BC offers advocacy, programs, education and networking

[Urban Development Institute \(UDI\)](#) focus on creation of balanced, well-planned and sustainable communities

[BC Construction Association \(BCCA\)](#) ensuring and exceeding the needs/expectations of construction employers

[International Facilities Management Association \(IFMA\)](#) sustainability committee sharing best practices

[Vancouver Regional Construction Association \(VRCA\)](#)

[Metro Vancouver Construction Waste, Recycling, Upcycling and Purchasing Tips](#)

[Cradle to Cradle Certified Products](#)

## TECH SECTOR

[Foresight](#)

[BC Cleantech](#)

## PRINT SECTOR

[Forest Stewardship Council \(FSC\)](#) helps keep life full of forest products while keeping our forests full of life

[Canopy](#) for the most sustainable printers in North America, see Canopy's updated Blueline Ranking for clear leaders

## RESTAURANT & FOOD SECTOR

[Metro Vancouver Food Recycling, Reduction, Purchasing and Donation Tips](#)

[FoodMesh Food Exchange Network](#) marketplace matching surplus food to network of businesses and charities

[Leaders in Environmentally Accountable Food Service \(Leaf\)](#) Reduce your ForkPrint!

## TOURISM

[Green Tourism Canada](#) Green Tourism Assessment and Certification; 3rd party certification

[Green Hotels \(US\)](#)

## TEXTILES

[Fashion Positive Materials Collection](#)

## FINANCE SECTOR

[A Starters Guide to Sustainability Reporting](#)

[Sustainability, Environment and Social Reporting](#)

[CPA's and Climate Change](#)

