

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY

Overall Aims

Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service have an objective to reduce our impact on the environment. This policy will assist in achieving this objective.

This policy complements the organisations existing Procurement Strategy and Policy, the Corporate Environmental Policy and the Climate Change and Environment Strategy. This policy details the key areas associated with sustainable procurement.

People, Education and Awareness

We will...

- Educate, train and encourage internal procurers to review their consumption of goods/services, reduce usage and adopt more environmentally friendly alternative products.
- Communicate the sustainable procurement policy to all our stakeholders and suppliers.
- Promote good sustainable procurement practices throughout our Supply Chain and encourage the adoption of good environmental practices and submission of offers for environmental better alternatives to current products.
- Investigate not only the product purchased but also associated items e.g. packing/wrapping.

Set clear priorities

- Comply with all relevant legislation and aim perform at a higher level than required. Develop a “sustainable triangle” comprising cost, effect on environment and practicality, to provide a framework for procurement officers to evaluate products and services and balance the needs of the organisation against the need to procure the most environmentally efficient product or service.
- Where possible procure products that maximise re-use and recycle characteristics.
- Reducing the amount of waste going to landfill by encouraging re-cycling of reusable materials. Aim to minimise wastage generally by encouraging stakeholders to “think before they buy”.

We will raise the standard expected by...

- Making procurement decisions based on long term value for money using whole life costing, this will include initial purchase cost, operating, management and disposal costs.
- Ensuring procurement officers have sufficient knowledge to assess the environmental content of tender or quotation submissions and that the procurement systems in place are workable and convenient to those involved.

- Promoting best practice for sustainable procurement.
- Ensuring that where appropriate, suppliers' environmental credentials are, as far as legally practicable, considered in the supplier evaluation process and that environmental criteria are used in the award of contracts.
- Ensuring that consideration is given to inclusion, within specifications, of a facility for suppliers to submit offers for environmentally friendly alternatives.
- Asking suppliers for action plans and results rather than policies relating to environmental procurement.
- Specify, wherever possible and practicable, the use of environmentally friendly products and services where value for money can be demonstrated on whole life cost grounds.

Specification options will include:

- low carbon or wholly renewable energy sources
- Carbon Trust's Enhanced Technology List
- BREEAM Green Guide "A" rated products (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology)
- DEFRA "Quick Win" specifications
- Accredited EMS or eco-labelling

We will remove barriers and carry out...

- Options appraisals and cost benefit analysis of required goods and services which include an assessment of the whole life environmental effects.
- Ensure contracts for goods and services require suppliers to minimise waste in production, delivery and other associated activities (e.g. construction) and encourage re-cycling.
- Account for the environmental impacts and benefits of products and services throughout their whole life.

We will engage suppliers by...

- Educate our suppliers regarding Lancashire and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Services environmental and sustainability objectives.
- Ensure that suppliers' environmental credentials are considered in the Supplier Appraisal process.
- Encourage and persuade suppliers to adopt environmentally friendly processes and supply environmentally friendly goods and services.
- Address barriers to entry in order that Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME's), local suppliers and the voluntary sector are encouraged to bid for Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service business.

- Work with key suppliers to make changes and thereby extend sustainability improvements throughout the supply chain.

We will measure progress and impact by...

- Monitor progress
- Encouraging other partners to adopt sustainable best practice.
- Complying with all relevant environmental legislation.
- Carrying out a review of this policy every 2 years.