



# *Sustainable* **Procurement**

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Making the difference



2021



# Sustainable Procurement Policy

*Sustainable procurement is a statement of Vertas's commitment to making environmental, economic and socially responsible decisions in respect of its purchase of goods and services. Sustainable Procurement is the purchase or commissioning of goods, services & works providing the optimum combination of whole-life cost and quality (or fitness of purpose) to meet users' requirements in an environmentally-friendly, responsible, sustainable and ethical way.*

**Procurement therefore has a broader meaning than purchasing, buying or commissioning. It is about securing purchases and products that best meet the needs of users and our clients in its widest sense.**

Vertas currently takes sustainability as well as cost and quality into account when choosing suppliers. Expenditure on goods, works & services has significant economic, social and environmental impacts. Minimising our impact in these areas, and where possible having a positive influence helps to improve local quality of life & promoting sustainable development. The cornerstone of sustainability is achieving development & progress that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



## *Overarching aim:*

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“ To educate our internal colleagues & clients to consider sustainable procurement options when making their purchasing decisions. It is also to continue to positively influence the sustainability performance and credentials of our suppliers in respect of the goods and services that we procure. ”

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# Objectives:

*Our Environmental Strategy is driven by our responsibilities and commitment to:*

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Adopt this Sustainable Procurement policy and ensure all employees involved with the purchase of goods and services are aware of its content and consider the implications when making their purchasing decisions



Specify sustainable, environmentally friendly products wherever appropriate / available



Ensure where appropriate sustainable environmental criteria are used in the award of new requirements



Ensure consideration is given to the whole life costs and benefits of environmentally preferable products and services. Typically, but not limited to; Manufacture, Delivery, Installation, Operating costs including Energy, Water usage and Maintenance



Ensure that suppliers sustainable environmental credentials are considered in the supplier approval process (where applicable / practicable)



Source and utilise ethically sourced / produced products e.g. Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Organic etc where possible or practical



Introduce more locally sourced products into the food supply chain where available, practical or financially viable



Work with key suppliers to encourage sustainability improvements throughout the whole supply chain; including but not limited to:

- Avoiding products with particularly harmful substances
- Favouring economical products with recycled content or that are biodegradable
- Encouraging use of sustainable distribution & logistics e.g. Electric vehicles, route planning software



Encourage suppliers to achieve environmental credentials such as environmental systems for ISO14001 or EMAS (Eco-Management Audit Scheme)



Ensure suppliers sign up to the Vertas Supplier Code of Conduct



Annual consolidation of supplier base – maintain competitive supply through closer managed relationships



# Thank you for reading our document.

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