

## **Sustainable Procurement**

Imperial College recognises that through our world class research and teaching our environmental influence extends across many boundaries and this also includes our own supply chain. The College therefore takes very seriously the impact our procurement activities may have on the environment and sustainable procurement is an important part of our sustainability agenda.

## **What is Sustainable Procurement**

Sustainable Procurement is, “a process whereby the College can meet its needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment”.

## **Why is Sustainable Procurement Important**

Sustainable Procurement is a critical issue in that we have to ensure our natural resources are used efficiently, waste is avoided and that we protect our biodiversity. Our spending decisions are therefore an important instrument in tackling climate change both by reducing our carbon emissions and ensuring that our buildings and infrastructure are resilient to climate change. Climate change is potentially one of the greatest global challenges (including its impact on sea levels, agriculture, fresh water supplies and demographic changes such as mass migration) and resource depletion and energy competition are now major issues for all large organisations. Understanding and adapting to the impact of climate change, resource depletion and energy competition will, therefore, help shape our future acquisition requirements.

## **Our Sustainable Procurement Strategy**

Imperial College interprets sustainable procurement as the incorporation of sustainability principles into our procurement decisions. This requires taking into account the impact of purchasing services, products and buildings whilst still obtaining value for money (VFM).

To formalise our commitments in this area we will use the national flexible framework to develop our approach to sustainable procurement and our strategy will help us to: (this was updated in 2010):

1. Lead by example and thereby make sustainable procurement a leadership priority.
2. Set clear priorities for sustainable procurement.
3. Raise the bar so that we can meet minimum standards now and set demanding goals for the future.
4. Build capacity so we can develop capabilities to deliver sustainable procurement.
5. Remove barriers to enable and support sustainable procurement.

6. Capture opportunities and develop smarter ways of engaging with the market to stimulate innovation.