SRM UNIVERSITY – AP, ANDHRA PRADESH

Sustainable Procurement and Ethical Sourcing

Buying Resource-Efficient, Low-Waste and Ethically Sourced Goods and Services

SRM University-AP, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh

12
RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

Sustainable Procurement and Ethical Sourcing

What a university buys decides much of what it later has to dispose of. The Sustainable Procurement Policy (Document ID SRMAP-SDG-2024-PLCY-007, version 1.0, effective 20 June 2024, next review 20 June 2027, owned by the Finance & Accounts Department and the Procurement Department) treats procurement as a strategic function that directly influences efficiency, financial accountability, environmental sustainability, social responsibility and governance. It supports SDG 12 by building environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations into the sourcing of food, materials, goods and services, including outsourced services, and it includes the University's policy on the ethical sourcing of food and supplies.



Image 1: Waste hierarchy that procurement supports: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover

SUPPLIERS

Sustainable Supplier Requirements

Suppliers and contractors play a critical role in achieving sustainable procurement, so the University expects them to adopt environmentally responsible, socially responsible and ethically sound practices and to accept its Supplier Code of Conduct. It may also ask suppliers for declarations on environmental compliance, labour compliance, health and safety practices, sustainability initiatives and regulatory approvals and certifications; for food suppliers this includes a valid food-safety licence (FSSAI) and any Fair Trade, organic or other certificates claimed.

GREEN PROCUREMENT

Green Procurement Requirements

The University progressively promotes the purchase of environmentally preferable goods and services. The policy gives a preference list for each category of purchase, so that buyers know what to look for.

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ETHICAL SOURCING

Ethical Sourcing of Food and Supplies

Ethical sourcing means obtaining food, beverages, materials and supplies in a manner that respects human and labour rights, protects the environment and animal welfare, supports local and small producers and communities, and is transparent and verifiable throughout the supply chain. It applies to all food and supplies bought by or for the University, including through outsourced services, and covers fresh produce, groceries, dairy, packaged food, beverages, canteen and mess supplies, stationery, cleaning products, laboratory and medical consumables, furniture, uniforms, electronics and construction materials.

These requirements apply equally to outsourced and contracted services, including canteens, messes, food courts, housekeeping, security, transport, maintenance and facility management, whose contracts and work orders require compliance. The University also carries out awareness activities for staff, students, vendors and nearby communities and engages local farmers and producers, for example through farmers' markets and food fairs, where appropriate.

INVESTMENT

Responsible and Sustainable Investment

The policy also extends ESG thinking to the University's investments, subject to the approval of the competent authority. It gives preference to businesses and projects that show environmental sustainability, social equity and good governance, supports renewable energy, clean-technology and low-carbon investments where financially prudent, avoids new investments in fossil-fuel extraction, deforestation and industries that violate labour or human rights, assesses environmental, social and reputational risks before investing, and calls for public disclosure of sustainability-related investment decisions.

MONITORING

Implementation, Monitoring and Indicators

The Procurement Department is the nodal department, and the Finance & Accounts Department supports it with budget checks, financial compliance, audit support and ESG considerations in investment. Together they prepare an annual sustainability report on procurement, ethical sourcing and investment, run regular audits of procurement and of supplier declarations, provide training at least once a year for procurement, finance, stores, food-service and departmental staff, and adopt new sustainability standards, including guidance such as ISO 20400 on sustainable procurement. The policy tracks sustainability indicators such as the percentage of sustainable procurement expenditure, procurement from environmentally responsible suppliers, procurement of energy-efficient equipment, the quantity of recycled-content products bought, the number of suppliers taking part in sustainability initiatives, the quantity of assets reused, refurbished or recycled, the percentage of food and supplies (by value) sourced locally and regionally, and the percentage of food and supplies vendors that have signed the Supplier Code of Conduct and the number audited or inspected each year.

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