

DEVELOPING A 'PEOPLE AND PLANET' PROCUREMENT POLICY

Organisations that commit to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) can also exert a wider influence on their key stakeholders and partners. One key area of influence is in the way an organisation procures its supply of goods and services. All levels of government, private sector organisations and NGOs procure a wide range of goods and services, creating an extended reach with partners and suppliers. Establishing a framework of 'social procurement' can promote both social and climate justice objectives that fully support the achievement of the multiple targets of the SDGs and the NUA.

Social procurement can be defined as procurement that has additional objectives to the routine 'value for money' or 'best value' criteria often applied in procurement practice. 'Social value' can be an important element of procurement practice and can promote sustainable development that 'leaves no one behind'. Areas of potential influence through social procurement include:

- Employment and training of traditionally excluded minorities
- Improving working conditions and wage levels
- Avoiding support for modern slavery practices
- Decarbonisation of manufacturing and construction methods
- Environmentally responsible sourcing and use of materials

A social procurement framework can promote significant cultural change that reaches deep into business and community practice. Through developing a range of social conditions and qualifying criteria, procurement can be an effective method of influence to encourage all levels of the supply chain to work towards social and environmental objectives.

Developing a procurement strategy that protects future generations is a key component of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act that has been implemented by the Welsh Government in the UK and the UN Global Compact Cities Program has also recognised the importance of procurement in companies extending their support for the Sustainable development goals.

Developing social procurement practice is challenging and requires revision of long-established custom and convention of procurement practitioners. Often the fastest route to development of good practice is to engage an external review to quickly identify where even minor change can gain immediate results. The development of a medium and long-term strategy can be built on quick wins that identify the key areas of change that will support the achievement of the SDGs and the NUA.

Compass is able to provide external review services based on extensive experience in supporting the objectives of both the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. Compass is UNESCO recognised and is a Lead Partner with the World Urban Campaign. Compass is also a member of the UN Global Compact and committed to delivery of the Ten Principles of the Global Compact. Members of our team serve at a high level in the UN General Assembly of Partners and we have convened major southern hemisphere conferences advocating for the SDGs and the NUA.

Our team has extensive international experience in procurement, strategic planning, compliance, governance and public, private partnerships (PPP). We are able to provide a comprehensive support service including:

- External benchmarking of internal reviews.
- Training and capacity development of internal teams
- Comprehensive organisational and systems review
- Policy development
- Monitoring and evaluation

For further information please contact:

Professor Dave Adamson

Knowledge Manager, Compass Consulting Services
davida@compasshousing.org +61 0428 469 890

