Crafting Cutting Edge Responsible Purchasing Policies

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Responsible Purchasing Trends
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Portland’s Sustainable Procurement Policy

Purpose Statement
- Recognize the impact of your purchasing decisions

Every Purchase has;
- Environmental, Economic, Social & Human Health impacts

General Policy Statement
- Employees will incorporate the following when writing specifications for…;
  - Environmental
  - Fiscal (Economic) considerations
  - Social Equity
Portland’s Sustainable Procurement Policy

General Policy Statement

– Utilize Best Practices as they evolve
– Evaluate the Toxicity of products (Precautionary Principles)
– Independent, third-party social or environmental (eco) product labels

Implementation and Responsibilities

– Citywide application to comply with Policy
– Harmonize and improve standards
– Provide assistance, outreach & education
– Evaluate suppliers sustainable practices
– Develop “boilerplate” language for solicitation documents
Social Equity

Equal Benefits

- Based on the principle of parity
  - Benefits offered to one group must be offered, on equal terms, to the other group
  - Does not require contractors to provide health benefits to their employees

- Bid/Proposal Rejection
  - Debarment from being awarded a contract up to 3 years OR until Contractor is brought into compliance

Sweatshop Free Procurement

- Use anti-sweatshop criterion in procurement decisions
  - Uniforms & clothing products have inherent social & human health impacts
  - Promote better working conditions

- Award to supplier who is ‘most’ compliant
  - Full – Delayed – Waivers – Sanctions - Remedies

- Point of assembly factory location information
  - Public disclosure

- Compliance verification
  - Independent monitoring

- Code of Conduct
Procurement’s Role

• Take Direct Action:
  – Put Sustainability Practices to work (3-R’s)
  – Incorporate environmentally preferable product specs
  – Analyzing impact of procurement decisions
  – Be a resource (Become a SME for your organization)

• Lead the Way:
  – Become a sustainability leader in projects & initiatives
  – Be a knowledgeable source for sustainable tools/resources
  – Offer a sustainability-oriented perspective
  – Work with socially responsible contractors
  – Get serious about life cycle cost analysis (Cradle/Cradle)
  – Promote alternatives (energy, facilities, fleet, procurement)
Contact

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