

17 Questions to Ask When Procuring Sustainably

HOW CAN YOU MAKE THIS STRATEGY WORK FOR YOU?

One crucial method is to ask questions when you're procuring, and ask a lot. This allows you to gain a better understanding of the environmental and social impact of the products and services you're considering.

This knowledge can inform purchasing decisions, allowing you to choose the solutions best fitted to the needs of your organisation in line with your Net Zero objectives.

- 1 Is the product or service necessary, or can we eliminate it to reduce consumption?
- 2 Can we reduce packaging waste by specifying minimal or reusable packaging requirements?
- 3 Is the supplier willing to reduce waste and minimise packaging?
- 4 Are we purchasing the correct amount?
- 5 What can we do to eliminate waste or reliance on single-use items?
- 6 Are there reusable options instead of single-use?
- 7 Can we extend the lifespan of existing products or equipment through repair or refurbishment?
- 8 Can we purchase reprocessed or refurbished products instead of new ones?
- 9 What materials are used in the product – are they from renewable sources?
- 10 Is the product designed for recyclability or made from recycled content?
- 11 Can we verify the environmental claims of the supplier?
- 12 Can we conduct a trial or pilot scheme to test the efficacy of the product or service before fully implementing it?
- 13 Does the product or service align with our organisation's sustainability goals?
- 14 What are the social and environmental impacts of the product or service we're considering?
- 15 Can the supplier take back the product at end-of-life for repurposing?
- 16 Are there good examples of other organisations sustainably procuring similar products or services?
- 17 Have we considered the entire product or service lifecycle, from raw materials to disposal?