Purchasing the future you want:

A sustainable IT purchasing guide

Resources to help your organization advance sustainable impact through the power of procurement

Purpose of the Guide

This guide is designed to help Procurement and Sustainability professionals leverage the power of sustainable procurement to advance your sustainability goals, while also contributing to the advancement of the circular economy. The focus of this document is on Information Technology (IT), in particular personal computers (PCs), displays, and printers, however the scope (particularly when assessing vendors) can be extended to apply in other procurement areas.

For a primer on sustainable procurement, check out the Buying Responsibly How-To Guide developed by WWF Canada and HP.

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Leveraging sustainable procurement

Procurement and sustainability professionals recognize the vital role sustainable procurement plays in "purchasing the future we want." There has never been a more pressing set of indicators demonstrating the scale of the issues facing humans and the planet.

This document aims to give you objective guidance on how to leverage your technology purchases to advance the circular economy. The simple definition of sustainable procurement is:

Sustainable Procurement is "Buying the most sustainable service or good from the most sustainable supplier."

— Bob Willard, founder and Chief Sustainability Champion, Sustainability Advantage

Even a small shift in the way we buy will have a significant impact on people and the planet, while helping to meet the Paris Agreement targets and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With the ever-growing impacts of climate change, population growth, scarce natural resources, global pandemics and calls to action for social justice, organizations will need to innovate their purchasing practices to build more resilient and sustainable supply chains.

The United Nations estimates that extractive industries are responsible for half of the world's carbon emissions and more than 80% of biodiversity loss, according to the most comprehensive environmental study undertaken of mining and farming[1]. Our consumption-based linear economy—take, make, waste, discard— is not sustainable.

The transition to a circular economy, based on reduce, reuse, and recycle, depends on procurement as a key driver. Organizations can support this transition, one that is restorative and regenerative by design,[2] by evaluating the services and products they buy and the companies from whom they choose to do business.

Sustainable Development Goals

Many organizations have aligned their sustainability goals to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework — a useful blueprint to address global challenges by 2030. While sustainable procurement influences many of the 17 interconnected goals, the two most relevant goals to procurement professionals may be SDG 12 and 17:

SDG 12 – **Responsible Consumption and Production**

SDG 12.7 includes "promot[ing] public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities." Our global material footprint continues to grow while natural resources are not used sustainably. The way organizations produce and consume has a real impact on our future; procurement has the power to meet your goals "to do more and better with less"[3] by keeping materials in use and at their highest value.

SDG 17 – **Partnerships for the Goals**

SDG 17 includes, "encourag[ing] and promot[ing] effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience, and resourcing strategies of partnerships." Sustainable development is a team sport that brings many skillsets and groups together to find the best solutions. Procurement professionals have a wide range of knowledge yet cannot be an expert in all areas. More than ever, procurement departments need to collaborate with line of business experts and sustainability professionals that have expertise in areas such as ecological and environmental science, and the social impacts within supply chains

The white paper on the collaboration between HP and WWF Canada gives organizations guidance on successful partnerships.

The linear economy
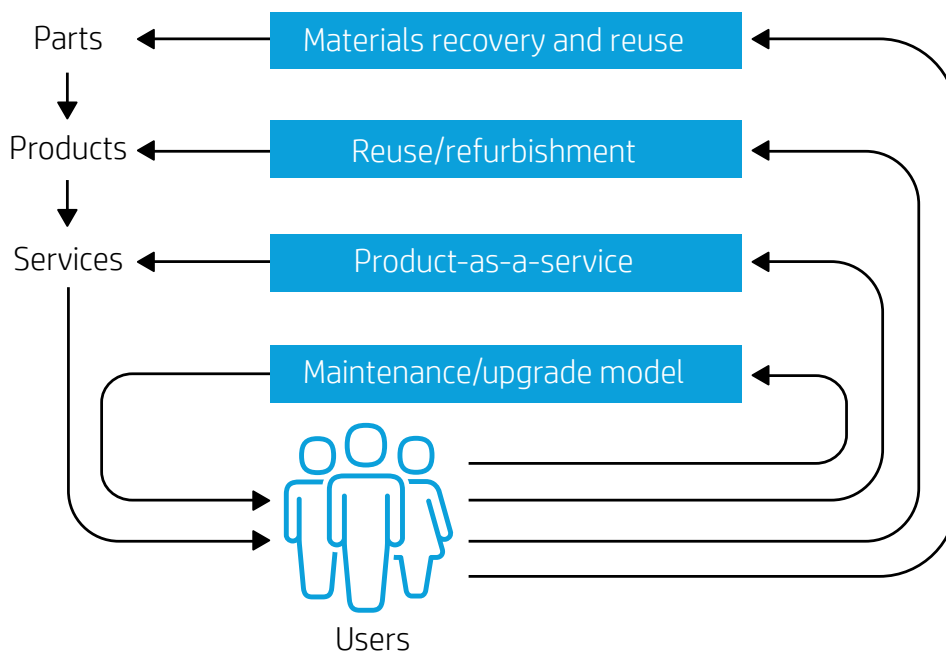
Take → Make → Consume → Discard

A model for change:
The circular economy ecosystem

Procurement is a critical driver for the economy, and it is especially important in the shift towards the circular economy. Where and how we spend money matters. For instance, the simple act of transitioning from buying a good to buying a service, such as managed print services, brings a host of sustainability benefits. In a circular economy, resources (e.g. materials or products) are maintained at their highest form of value for as long as possible. This eliminates the need to extract ever-increasing amounts of natural resources and, at the end of (first) life, avoids discarding these resources into landfills, waterways, and oceans. The circular economy transition is critical for future-looking organizations.

End of (first) life means that an electronic device is heading to a second life, usually with another user. This is important because IT equipment requires a lot of investment of energy and materials to manufacture and extending product lives reduces the overall carbon footprint and other impacts.

Circular economy ecosystem

Parts
Products
Services

Materials recovery and reuse
Reuse/refurbishment
Product-as-a-service
Maintenance/upgrade model

Users

"Habitual purchasing practices represent the single largest barrier to realizing a more sustainable industrial economy. Unless we innovate the way we buy and what we buy, we will continue to reproduce the social, environmental, and economic impacts that we experience in our industrial economy today.

— Sam J. Hummel, Former Executive Director of the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council (SPLC)

Circular economy ecosystem (continued)

The circular economy is an alternative economic model, where services and products are designed with sustainability such as, product life extension through facilitating repair and in particular their end of life in mind. Production and use are powered by renewable energy and design allows for reuse and at end of life complete recovery & recycling of all of the product. Resources such as plastics from these products, are then put back into new products.

Aligning your procurement practices to encourage the circular economy can be achieved by making informed purchasing decisions regarding services and products. Critically, the transition to the circular economy is driven by procurement with these three main circularity drivers – product design, transparency & performance, and supplier relationships.

"Without circular procurement, your sustainability work will be seen as just window dressing"

— TCO Development 2020 report, Impacts and Insights: Circular IT Management in Practice

Circularity drivers

Product Design

It is commonly understood that a majority of a product's sustainability impacts are determined during the design stage. Continually improving design, and encouraging organizations and their supply chains to do the same, will drive the circular economy. For example, many organizations purchase technology without considering product lifespan and the end of (first) life of those products. These are critical design elements and can be specified in bid documents. Value can be derived for your organization by including these costs in purchasing decisions and the concept of total cost of ownership (TCO) is covered in this guide.

Transparency & Performance

Social, environmental, and economic transparency means disclosing decisions, activities, goals, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) related to these areas. Transparency is the basis for stakeholder dialogue and collaboration. Without transparency, suppliers and their customers are not speaking the same language and are not on the same page about where they are today, nor where they are going together in the future. If "the fastest way to green your business is to purchase from one that has already greened theirs" Adapted from Ray Anderson Former CEO of Interface — understanding who you are doing business with and how they help you contribute to your organization's sustainability goals is critical.

Supplier Relationships

Building relationships with suppliers and aligning on sustainability goals drives innovation and helps create a ripple effect through the supply chain. It also means a compounded positive impact to your organizational objectives — social, environmental, financial, and others. The ISO 20400:2017 Sustainable Procurement—Guidance document provides more depth on supplier relationships.

Suppliers can inform you of capabilities that are available today and what will be possible tomorrow as we collaborate to develop a more sustainable future. Procurement is a strong tool that drives innovation in the technology industry – working with your suppliers to understand how your goals can align with your suppliers' will result in a more circular economy.

Organizational context: Sustainability goals & supply chain impact

In this critical decade of climate action, organizations are increasingly setting and driving towards achieving ambitious sustainability goals. Whether these goals include reduced and sustainably sourced packaging, water conservation, value chain carbon reductions, supplier diversity, or workers' rights, the use of sustainable procurement to advance these goals is often underestimated.

Sustainable procurement is, in fact, one of the most impactful and effective ways to meet your sustainability goals.

Leveraging your technology purchases to advance your social and environmental goals makes sense.

Sustainable Procurement is "Buying the most sustainable service or good from the most sustainable supplier."

— Bob Willard, Founder and Chief Sustainability Champion, Sustainability Advantage

What are the impacts of your organization?

Due to the wide selection of sustainability standards around the globe, HP recommends a focused approach to meet your organization's needs and applying them globally.

Although it may seem logical for an organization to improve the sustainability impacts within its own operations, the greatest contributors to an organization's footprint usually come from its supply chain. Operations are only the tip of the iceberg. Below the surface, there are many other risks associated with purchasing and suppliers.

The largest contribution to a product's carbon footprint is obtained during manufacturing (supply chain). For example, materials extraction contributes to 50% of HP's global carbon emissions, while operations accounts for only 1%. By developing a better understanding of how each supplier addresses their own impact on carbon emissions and resource acquisition, you can choose those employing the most responsible practices.

Align your procurement with your sustainability goals

The vendor, type and quantity of services and/or products purchased, collectively determine the social, and environmental impact of any procurement activity. Align your decision-making criteria with your organization's social and environmental goals, policies, and priorities. For example, if your organization is striving to reduce its carbon footprint aligned with the Paris Agreement, you need to ensure that all services and goods under consideration include a carbon footprint disclosure. You can then prioritize vendors and products with the lowest carbon footprint.
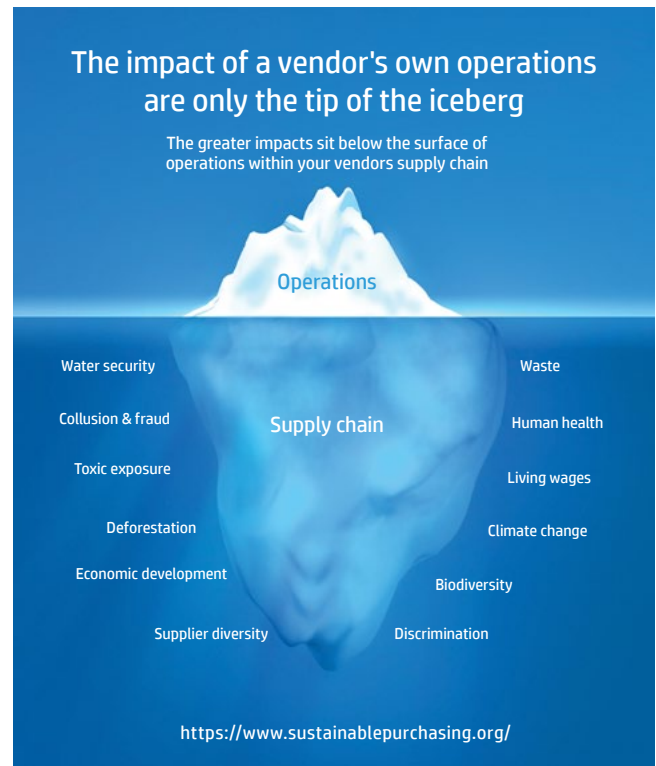
The impact of your procurement program will be maximized by prioritizing procurement criteria based on science-based targets and by focusing on the areas of greatest risk to your business and reputation.

The impact of a vendor's own operations are only the tip of the iceberg

The greater impacts sit below the surface of operations within your vendors supply chain

Operations

Supply chain

Water security
Collusion & fraud
Toxic exposure
Deforestation
Economic development
Supplier diversity

Waste
Human health
Living wages
Climate change
Biodiversity
Discrimination

https://www.sustainablepurchasing.org/

HP's global emissions impact 2019

46,785,800 tonnes CO_2e

Supply chain (50%)

- Materials extraction through manufacturing: 20,900,000
- Transport: 2,300,000
- Capital goods: 300,000
- Upstream energy production: 100,000

Operations (1%)

- Employee commuting: 200,000
- Facilities: 182,500
- Business travel: 70,000
- Transportation fleet: 33,300

Products and solutions (49%)

- Product use: 22,500,000
- Product end of service: 200,000
- Buildings leased to others: De minimis
- Investments: De minimis

How to evaluate circularity drivers

A set of diverse tools are available to evaluate the circularity and sustainability of IT services and products. The following section will describe how to use these tools effectively.

Use these icons to learn what element of circularity you are working on.

Circularity Drivers

Product Design

Transparency & Performance

Supplier Relationships
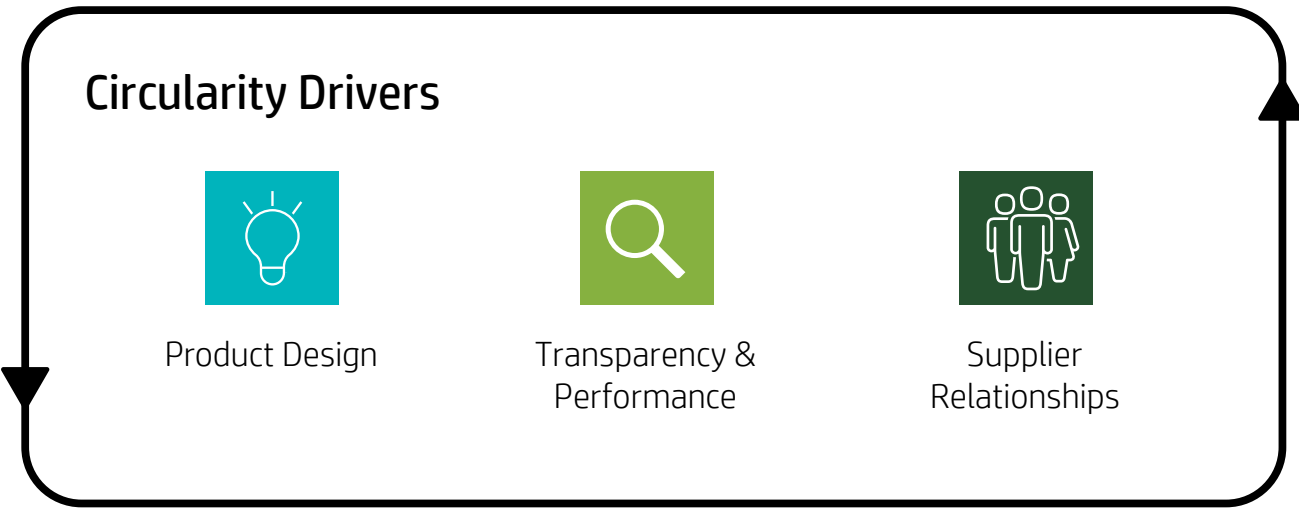
Tools of the Trade

RFP Design
Asking good questions

Ecolabels, Disclosures & Rankings*
Product and organizational transparency

Life Cycle Review
Financial and carbon impacts over the course of the entire value chain of a product/service

* Note: EU public procurement requires a focus on products and not suppliers for bid specifications.

Evaluating the design of products for circularity

This section provides information and tools needed to assess whether or not products meet your sustainability needs.

The importance of total cost of ownership (TCO), life cycle assessments (LCA) & carbon neutrality

Total cost of ownership (TCO): Disclosing all financial costs across life cycle

Do suppliers disclose all costs of owning IT, not just initial purchase price?

"TCO helps determine smart buying decisions by considering the ongoing costs of services or goods in combination with the initial purchase price."

— Bob Willard, founder and Chief Sustainability Champion, Sustainability Advantage

Fairness & full life cycle: Procurement criteria need to be fair and equitable and consider sustainability aspects throughout the life cycles of different product options. For instance, the energy costs to operate the device together with the end of first life, security, and environmental and social issues need to be considered at the point of purchase. How many devices are needed, truly? If you procure as a service you can use just what you need, reducing waste and sustainability impacts, two fold. First by reducing the amount of active hardware and secondly by supporting its second life when you are done using it in its first.

Did you know: Adding 2 years of use to an average PC reduces the carbon footprint by 30%![4]

This isn't to say that your organization should be holding on to IT products until they no longer work, but rather it points to the significance of buying a product as a service (PaaS). Buying as a service allows for PCs to reach their second life much faster. You don't have to worry about the logistics of storing unused devices or the associated data privacy concerns.

Storing used PCs represents wasted resources, wasted money, and wasted space. Shifting to a servitization model for IT products allows your organization to avoid the upfront costs while you only pay for what is used.

Buying a product as a service (PaaS) is not the same as leasing— which is simply a financial arrangement.[4]

Emissions by life cycle phase, notebooks (%):

- 13.2% Use phase
- 0.2% End of life
- 6.8% Transportation
- 79.8% Manufacturing
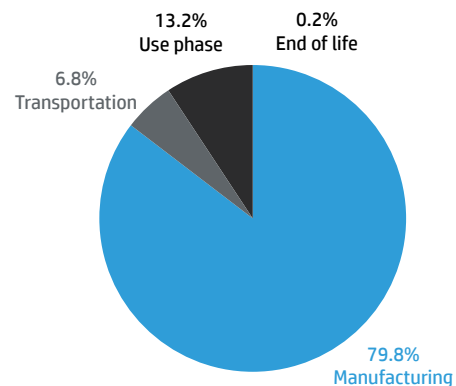
TCO Development 2020 report, Impacts and Insights: Circular IT Management in Practice

Life cycle assessment (LCA)

A life cycle assessment (LCA) is a rigorous, science-based quantitative methodology that assesses environmental impacts associated with all stages of a [service or] product's life — from raw material extraction through materials processing, manufacture, distribution, use, repair and maintenance, and disposal or recycling.[5]

Organizational and value chain sustainability are highly complex ecosystems, robust metrics and KPI to measure performance are relatively new. One of the best tools for measuring environmental impacts is a life cycle assessment (LCA). An LCA is used by manufacturers to assess relative impacts between processes and products. However, LCAs for IT products evaluate a high level of complexity and variation in manufacturing processes across the supply chain, that leads to a wide standard deviation. Due to this, they are not reliable for comparing IT products between potential vendors.

TCO & LCA support 'access over ownership' models

Peer reviewed research conducted by HP in 2020 following the parameters defined by ISO 14040/44 Environmental management- Lifecycle assessment - principles & framework, demonstrated significant advantages when purchasing services compared to purchasing products.[5] By embracing access to services (compared to product ownership) organizations can save money by avoiding the capital investment in hardware and materials, while contributing to a smaller carbon footprint and supporting the circular economy movement.[5]

Product as a service (PaaS) systems significantly advance towards a more circular and low carbon economy through:

• Avoided manufacturing & extended product life – usually with a second or even third owner

• Usage optimization – managed product services better match the number and type of devices to the users' needs and facilitates reduced waste

• Material & transportation reductions (e.g. through improved distribution efficiency and reduced packaging)

PaaS systems generally cost less than traditional products because:

• You are not paying for more than you need; because product accessibility is matched to your needs

• Predictive monitoring and maintenance prevent catastrophic breakdown & excessive or delayed repair time

• When repair costs are carried by the supplier, they are incentivized to design products that are made to last are easy to repair and recycle

Carbon neutrality

3 out of 4 Fortune Global 500 companies are expected to meet a science-based emission reduction target (SBT), be carbon neutral, or use 100% renewable energy by 2030.[6]

Carbon is emitted throughout the life cycle of a service or product, and much of these emissions are unavoidable. Carbon neutrality refers to the effective reduction of net carbon emissions to zero. Carbon neutrality is achieved by using a combination of measures, including eliminating the need for the product, extending the products lifespan, reducing energy use and by offsetting carbon.

Carbon reduction means:

• Improving operating and energy efficiency of services & products

• Maximizing the use of renewable energy across the value chain

• Avoiding fossil fuel consumption

Offsetting carbon means:

Offsetting carbon means investing in programs that offset carbon emissions by:

• Promoting sustainable development

• Conserving biodiversity

• Protecting biodiversity and ecosystem health

• Protecting human health

When choosing to offset carbon, it is important to ensure high-quality carbon offset projects that are verified by third party standards.

Ecolabels: A guide to buying with sustainability in mind

Ecolabels provide one type of product level sustainability measurement, intending to simplify procurement decisions. Ecolabels are voluntary tools (or programs) that represent a baseline or threshold related to environmental and/or social concerns. They are not an explicit solution, but they should be considered as one component when assessing the sustainability of your PC and print investment.

Ecolabels assert compliance to their standard, with a set of practices or minimum requirements for sustainability or reduction of impact

to the environment. There are a wide variety of ecolabels—the ones listed below are most relevant to purchasing IT services and products.

ENERGY STAR is the best-known ecolabel. It indicates that a product uses less energy than at least 75% of available products in the market, in its given product category.

EPEAT is a well-recognized IT ecolabel. EPEAT consists of 3 levels; gold, silver and bronze and is a comprehensive and holistic certification comprising of many sustainability criteria at the product and organizational level. EPEAT must be registered in the country of use.

Leading Ecolabels for IT

	ENERGY STAR®	EPEAT	TCO Certified	China SEPA	Taiwan Green Mark	Korea Eco Label	Blue Angel
Description	Helps consumers make informed buying decisions by providing information about products' energy efficiency.	Helps purchasers in the public and private sectors evaluate, compare, and select IT products based on a variety of environmental & social attributes. EPEAT is an acronym for Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool.	Provides certified products that meet comprehensive environmental and social responsibility criteria throughout the life cycle. Products and manufacturing facilities are independently verified for compliance with all criteria	A Chinese environmental labeling program to promote recycling, pollution reduction, & resource conservation. Helps consumers purchase green products and encourages manufacturers to design & supply environmentally benign products.	A voluntary program to promote recycling, pollution reduction & resource conservation. As the Green Procurement Policy was enforced, there is a mandate for government bodies to only purchase products with Green Mark.	Aims at providing accurate environmental information to consumers, and encourages firms to develop & produce products with a lower sustainability impact.	A German environmental certification for products and services.
Desktops	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Notebooks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Thin clients	✓			✓	✓		
Workstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Monitors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Laser printers	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Ink printers	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Scanners	✓	✓		✓	✓		

Evaluating PC and print products

The questions below will help evaluate IT products (PCs and monitors, printing and imaging, and print cartridges). All questions apply to product information that is accessible through technical specifications or other related product collateral available from your IT vendor.

Topic:	What questions should you ask?	Why it matters:
Product quality & reliability — design for upgradeability & repairability	Are products designed to be upgradable? (e.g. processor, memory cards, or drives)? Are products repairable & third party verifiable? (e.g. iFixit)* Are spare parts available for a minimum of 3 years (preferably 5 years) after end of production? Is service available for a minimum of 3 years (preferably 5 years) after end of production? *iFixit works for commercial customers, but is not permitted for EU Public procurers.	The circular economy depends on products being maintained at their highest possible value (e.g. being used for a longer time period). Products need to be specifically designed to be upgradable & repairable to ensure the longest possible first, second,and even third life. Ensuring procured IT products reach a second life quickly will save you money. This can be accomplished through PaaS and ensures the vendor is able to repair and upgrade your old equipment ready for its second home and second life.
Ecolabels & self— declarations	Is the product ENERGY STAR® certified? Is this product in the EPEAT® (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool) registry? If yes, what rating did it receive? Bronze, Silver, or Gold and in which country? Does this product meet the requirements of another certification/ecolabel program? If so, what certification program? For example, TCO Certified for computing products and Blue Angel for printing products. Does the manufacturer publish The Eco Declaration (TED) for this product (aligned to the ECMA—370 standard)?	Ecolabels represent a voluntary method of environmental performance certification and labelling. An ecolabel identifies services or products proven to be environmentally ecolabels are independently verified giving the buyer an assurance of meeting the criteria set out by the ecolabel. This allows purchasers to make informed decisions and set a minimum set of requirements quickly and easily. Using the Eco Label as a base then asking for additional transparency with the TED will give you a full set of data on your purchases.
Materials in products	Do the products and/or supplies contain: • Recycled content (e.g. recycled metal, ocean—bound plastic, postconsumer recycled plastic, or ITE- derived plastic?) • What percentages? • Is there a goal to increase the percentages of recycled content? • Are plastic materials in covers/housing free of surface coating (reducing the recyclability of the plastic)?	IT products contain hundreds of different types of materials. Better products strive to facilitate, through design, the reclaiming and reusing of materials like plastics and metals. This is part of the circular economy and helps prevent these materials from ending up in landfills or the environment. It also lowers the need to mine for more materials that have impacts associated with GHG emissions and biodiversity loss.

Evaluating PC and print products (continued)

Topic:	What questions should you ask?	Why it matters:
Hardware take-back, reuse & recycling	Does the supplier have a battery take-back & recycling program? Does the supplier offer take-back and data-secure reuse and recycling? What standards are applied to these processes? What reports on sustainability benefits are offered to you?	After better design and product life extension, take-back, reuse, and recycling are the next steps in the circular economy. Ensuring all products are returned and recycled using high data protection and environmental standards is a critical and often overlooked element of procurement. Buying IT as a service enables a faster second life and faster and more complete resource recovery.
Printing considerations	Can paper containing recycled fibers that meet the requirements of EN12281 be used in the printer? Is auto duplex (double-sided printing) capability integral to the base product and set as default when shipped?	Recycled content paper quality varies widely and leveraging this standard helps assure that recycled content paper can be used in your devices.
Product packaging design	Does the supplier have a publicly available packaging optimization program to minimize packaging weight and volume? Zero deforestation: Does paper-based packaging come from 100% recycled or certified sources? (See Forests and Sustainable Procurement for more details on certified sources). Does the supplier have a publicly stated, time bound, plastic packaging reduction goal? Is all packaging recyclable and does it contain recycled content? For packaging materials that claim to be recyclable, does the organization use standards such as FTC's Green Guides or ISO 14021:2016 (Environmental labels and declarations — Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling))? Does the supplier avoid the use of hard-to-recycle materials such as multi-layered plastics and expanded plastic foams? Does the supplier offer multi-unit/bulk packaging?	Packaging is designed to protect products from damage during transportation. Its lifespan is relatively short and consumes valuable natural resources. There is a trade-off in sustainability—too little packaging may result in a damaged product that has a much higher sustainability impact. Packaging needs careful design to minimize use of natural resources and emissions during transport while maximizing the protection of your new IT purchase. It must also be recyclable at end of use at your organization.

Evaluating PC and print products (continued)

Topic:	What questions should you ask?	Why it matters:
Design for accessibility Specifying accessibility requirements in bid documents can include a wide variety of elements. The following standards are useful for reference: U.S. Revised Section 508, WCAG 2.x, and E.U. EN 301 549.	You can ask for general accessibility statements, such as but not limited to: • Describe whether your products conform to ICT (Information and Communications Technology) accessibility standards • Describe your accessibility testing protocols • Describe the role, if any, of your central accessibility office • Describe specific product features you have that benefit people with visual, auditory, physical, and/or cognitive disabilities You can also ask for specific requirements, such as but not limited to: **Print Devices:** • Access handles, accessible keyboard compatibility, and/or Braille tactile labels • Secure voice command and screen reader support • Accessibility applications and/or commonly-used features screen magnification, color contrast settings, key repeat, and toggle keys • Navigation support by using the tab key **PC:** • Screen magnification, keyboard navigation, and tactile sensitivity • On-Screen Display (OSD) functions do not interfere with operating systems' accessibility • Easy to open device— even with one hand and/or adjustable displays • Supports all Microsoft Windows accessibility options	Accessibility is about making something usable by everyone—including the diverse community of people with disabilities. Everyone deserves access to technology and information—it's a part of our daily lives. Accessibility tools provide options for individuals with disabilities including learning, vision, hearing, and mobility impairments. Accessibility is critical to human rights, security and the circular economy Through product design, suppliers can support workplace modifications for individuals to overcome barriers by offering accessibility options such as braille keyboard labels, speech recognition, narration, dictation, and other visual features. Accessibility and innovations make services and products easier for everyone to use, including in both situational and acquired disabilities. For example, when you cannot hear amidst the bustle of a busy airport, you can easily read the news via closed captions on the bottom of every overhead television screen. The prevalence of age-related limitations will only increase with the rise in the aging population. ISO 26800:2011 (Ergonomics — General approach, principles and concepts) technically defines accessibility as the "extent to which products, systems, services, environments, or facilities can be used by people from a population with the widest range of characteristics and capabilities to achieve a specific goal in a specified context of use."[11]

Evaluating PC and print products (continued)

Topic:	What questions should you ask?	Why it matters:
Data security	Specifying that vendors apply "coordinated vulnerability disclosure" Assess how vendors' product cybersecurity standards are applied deep into their supply chain. This is best done through a third party cybersecurity risk assessment on your vendors and their management systems. Purchase only from suppliers and vendors who have security innovation and cyber resilience built into services, products, and solutions, and ensure there is security verification to: • Defend and recover from a memory level attack • Detect process and workflow changes • Job tracking and accounting • Anti-fraud, anti-counterfeit solutions • Physical locks with alarms (if applicable) Obtain formal security ratings for the apps, hardware, services, and other peripherals security risk ratings are tied to Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS), Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) and National Vulnerability Database (NVD) ratings. Asking your vendors about innovation to keep up to date with security vulnerabilities is key. What systems and investments have they made? How can they assist you in ensuring your systems are secure? Request your suppliers' cybersecurity policies and standards and compare them to your own organization's policies and standards.	Data security and privacy are best dealt with firstly through product design, by building in protection, detection, and recovery. Security and privacy need to be built into both hardware and software; this needs to integrate seamlessly into your broader IT network security infrastructure. Given the dynamic and critical nature of this issue, your vendors (both print & PC) should be investing heavily in this area. Procurement requirements for your vendors and the technology you purchase need to be detailed and thorough.

Evaluating PC and print products (continued)

Topic:	What questions should you ask?	Why it matters:
Data privacy & protection	How does your supplier ensure all employees are aware of their company privacy policies and what proportion receive training? Request a copy of the supplier's privacy policy and standards & how it implements privacy by design.	Privacy is a fundamental human right. Individuals have the right to: • Know what personal data is being collected • Choose how it is used • Be left alone • Have personal data be kept confidential and secure All organizations need to comply with increasing privacy requirements — especially technology companies. To protect privacy, personal data must be protected at all stages of processing from being collected, to being used for the intended purpose to being disposed <u>when no longer needed</u>.
Chemical restrictions	Does the manufacturer apply the precautionary principle to chemical management and support ecolabel and sustainable procurement criteria that restrict the use of certain substances when: • Chemicals are scientifically proven by recognized and published articles to present a risk to humans or the environment • They are restricted by internationally recognized laws and a feasible alternative exists that is safer and has less impact on the environment and human health	As we transition to a circular economy, the importance of chemical constituents increases as materials such as plastics are used again and again. Products and components must be designed with chemical constituency in mind to ensure they are safe, robust and reclaimable.

Evaluating Printer Cartridges

EPEAT Guidelines

	Topic:	Why it matters:	What criteria should you look for?
EPEAT Guideline	Indoor Air Quality (print system)	Americans spend an estimated 90% of their time indoors, and the levels of common air pollutants can be two to five times higher indoors than outdoors.	Supplies in use with a compatible printer should guarantee indoor air quality as per internationally recognized ecolabel standard threshold limits.

EPEAT 4.10.1.1 Indoor Air Quality Emission Requirements

	Topic:	Why it matters:	What criteria should you look for?
EPEAT Guideline	Take-back and recycling program	Support company waste reduction efforts and enable recycled products as raw material in new products.	Supplier should offer a print supplies take-back and recycling program for depleted supplies such as ink and toner cartridges. A supplier is required by EPEAT to recycle both the plastic and the toner material after collecting the cartridges, and should provide annual reporting of the associated metrics.

EPEAT 4.9.3.1 Provision of take-back and recycling service for cartridges and containers (includes process restrictions and reporting requirements)	EPEAT 4.9.3.3 Manufacturer recycles or reuses all plastic collected through its cartridge and container take-back program	EPEAT 4.9.3.2 Manufacturer recycles or reuses all toner material collected through its cartridge and container take-back program

Additional Requirements

	Topic:	Why it matters:	What criteria should you look for?
	Safety Data Sheet (SDS)	An SDS Documents Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) information. Tools show if the toner or ink is hazardous or not.	Suppliers should be able to provide Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for offered printer cartridges containing toner or ink (if hazardous, in local language).
	Recycled content	The efficient use of materials helps to reduce environmental and social impact. Keep materials in use at their highest value rather than sending them to landfill.	According to the US EPA, "The Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) program is part of EPA's continuing effort to promote the use of materials recovered from solid waste." In 1995, EPA designated toner cartridges as an item that should contain recovered materials under the CPG. The EPA does not set forth a minimum level of recovered material. Preference should be given to vendors who make cartridges with the highest level of recycled content.
	Sustainability program	A venor's sustainability program and its disclosures demonstrate transparency and credibility. Enables company to buy from a vendor that upholds human rights, labor conditions, and environmental guidance in its own company and in its supply chain.	The vendor publishes sustainability goals annually or biannually and uses a third party reporting framework such as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

Evaluating Printer Cartridges (continued)

Topic:	Why it matters:	What criteria should you look for?
Life cycle environmental impact (supplies)	Using life cycle analysis is the only way a vendor can truly understand its environmental impacts over the lifetime of a product or service. This evaluation is a requirement of Environmental Health & Safety programs, the circular economy and to ensure products are designed with environmental considerations.	The printing system (cartridges with printer) or cartridges should meet the requirements of recognized ecolabels covering environmental aspects during the life cycle of the printing system (or cartridge). These criteria cover all life cycle aspects besides indoor air quality (covered above). Credibility is key to communicating the results of a life cycle assessment. ISO 14040 requires critical reviews (peer reviews) to be performed on all life cycle assessments supporting a comparative assertion disclosed to the public.
Cartridge characterization and substitution	Refilled and remanufactured cartridges are not standardized and can impact product quality and reliability and thus generate waste. Supplies should not be substituted without customer approval.	Supplier should provide the country of origin and one of the following designations for each cartridge: • Original cartridge (brand from printer manufacturer) • Non-Original remanufactured cartridge (some parts renewed) • Non-Original refilled only cartridge (no parts renewed) • Non-Original new-built cartridge (all parts new) No international standard available yet.
Environmental Management System	The ISO 14001:2015 standards ensure a company is aware of its environmental impacts and provides a process for continuous improvement.	Printing supply manufacturers should be certified against the ISO 14001:2015 environmental management system and provide certificates.
Page Yield	The page yield is connected to usability and number of pages possible to print based on a reliable standard—often a priority for public sector customers— and provides resource efficiency.	Cartridge page yield should be reported in accordance with ISO/IEC 19752, ISO/IEC 19798 or ISO/IEC 24711.
Product quality and reliability	Product quality and reliability have both cost and environmental impacts, like reduction of waste and carbon footprint.	Supplier should be able to empirically demonstrate the quality and reliability of the products and provide reference to third party reports and data where appropriate.
Responsible Forestry & Paper Selection	Paper and packaging contain forest products made from trees. Deforestation is a major global issue that contributes to climate change and biodiversity loss. IT suppliers should have a strong commitment to responsible forestry to ensure the future of both healthy thriving forests and your investment in print products and services.	Look for the FSC® or PEFC™ marks on paper and packaging products. (e.g. "FSC 100% Recycled"). Ask suppliers to demonstrate their commitment to Responsible Forestry with an organizational paper policy that outlines principles for buying, selling and using paper, as well as buying, and using product packaging made from paper.

Evaluating Supplier Transparency & Performance

"The fastest way to green your business is to buy from one that has already greened theirs."

– Based on a quote by Ray Anderson, Founder and Chairman of Interface Inc and Grandfather of Business Sustainability

Choosing suppliers that will help meet your sustainability goals and protect your reputation is essential. This section covers the importance of transparency; how to evaluate it and how to identifying greenwashing.

The importance of supplier transparency

Supplier transparency is the clear, unambiguous, and explicit communication of significant and substantial business risk, including how the risk is measured, mitigated, and its real or potential impacts to people, planet, and profits.

A high degree of transparency and high performance to their disclosed goals, is a good indicator of a sustainable supplier. Transparency provides credibility to sustainability claims and is necessary to demonstrate the commitment, methods, measurements, and goals of sustainability work. Just as organizations release annual financial reports to investors, the growing expectation is that organizations will—with the same rigor—share their sustainability goals and performance.

There are often contractual confidentiality requirements throughout supply chains. However, leading organizations have overcome these issues through work with the RBA (Responsible Business Alliance—the world's largest industry collaboration dedicated to Corporate Social Responsibility in supply chains) and other such organizations. RBA recognizes a spectrum of maturity for disclosures through their Good/Better/Best approach and the need for continuous improvement. RBA has issued a practical guide to transparency in procurement that recognizes the wide variety of reporting metrics. RBA states that, "The most efficient way is to assess a consistent set of publicly available indicators by which companies report their performance and progress." By aligning on transparency, the most meaningful data and issues are brought into focus.

There are many ways to disclose important sustainability performance elements. Evaluating a supplier's overall sustainability commitment for only one area or action is not sufficient. Often, organizations receive praise for a single sustainable service or product, instead of considering that organization's full value chain impacts. Given the definition of sustainable procurement, considerations also need to be given to the performance of all services, products, and the vendor company itself; otherwise you may fall victim to greenwashing claims.

While third party rating companies can help to determine transparency and establish confidence,[12] it is a good idea to look at a range of ratings, as each rating organization uses its own methods.

Talk to suppliers and other stakeholders to ensure your procurement program has realistic goals and expectations. Bid / tender requests should reflect your priorities, and the social and environmental components of tender offers should be weighted accordingly.

Meaningful supplier transparency is critical to sustainable business and a sustainable future.

A transparent processes and discussion with suppliers and stakeholders will provide you with a clearer picture of market conditions and should help you evaluate the impact of specific criteria. ISO 20400:2017—Sustainable procurement Guidance recommends working with suppliers to determine procurement criteria.

The Risk of Non-Transparency — Identifying Greenwashing

Greenwashing is a misleading or vague claim without substantiation. Without transparency and verification, the risk of greenwashing is high – whether intended or unintended by the vendor. See below for tips to evaluate supplier collateral and/or RFP responses for greenwashing.

Supply chain responsibility goes hand in hand with transparency. For instance, organizations that disclose their manufacturing and recycling sites are practicing transparency. There are no regulations requiring disclosure. Doing so is an indicator that they have confidence in the management of their supply chain. For example, printing companies that do not disclose their impacts on forests and water (through voluntary disclosures such as CDP) are either unaware of them or not prepared to disclose because of issues.

Self-declarations

Some suppliers may provide self-declarations to communicate their sustainability commitments and transparency.

For example, ECMA—370 THE ECO DECLARATION (TED) provides environmental information for a specific product or product family in an industry-standard format developed by IT organizations in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark.

The Sins of Greenwashing

Transparency & verification help to prevent greenwashing. Beware of the Sins of Greenwashing when evaluating sustainability claims.[12]

"Sin" of greenwashing	Explanation & examples
Sin of the *"Hidden trade-off"*	Making a claim of lower sustainability impact by focussing on an unreasonably narrow set of attributes – without considering the full lifecycle impacts, example- save waste here but use more energy instead
Sin of *"No proof"*	Making a claim that is not supported by easily accessible supporting information and or reliable third party certifications such as a well-known eco label
Sin of *"Vagueness"*	Making a claim that is so broad that its real meaning is likely to be misunderstood by the reader, example - environmentally friendly or green products
Sin of *"worshipping false labels"*	This occurs when words or images give the impression of third party endorsements which do not exist. Example – this product is certified green.
Sin of *"Irrelevance"*	Making a claim that may be truthful but it unhelpful or unimportant for buyers trying to make sustainably preferable choices. Example – this bottled water has zero calories.
Sin of the *"Lesser of two evils"*	Making a claim that may be true but again risks distracting the buyer from the greater sustainability impact of the category as a whole. Example- Organic tobacco or sustainable packaging on a product that has no eco labels.
Sin of *"Fibbing"*	This is considered to be the least used sin and often occurs inadvertently due to low levels of knowledge of sustainability. Example- This product is better for the environment.

(Source: UL)

Human rights

Preventing adverse impacts on workers, communities, and consumers is one of the most pressing challenges almost every company faces in today's globalized marketplace. Human rights are tied to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and can be assessed by a variety of indicators.

There are several mechanisms that assess companies' performance on human rights. Two common options are the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark (CHRB) and EcoVadis ratings platform. The CHRB was set up by investors and civil society organizations dedicated to creating the first open and public benchmark of corporate human rights performance. CHRB covers six themes that are grounded in the UN Guiding Principles for business and human rights, as well as other international and industry-specific standards on human rights and responsible business conduct. The EcoVadis ratings platform also assesses human rights and can also be used to assess a company's performance in this area.

A simple way to assess a company's performance is to ask for its ratings under CHRB and EcoVadis—some tech companies have not been assessed by CHRB.

Why human rights need to be considered by purchasers

Regulations related to mandatory human rights due diligence whether for forced labor or all adverse human rights impacts, are increasingly being proposed in several jurisdictions, (including Germany, Switzerland, the European Union, and Canada) while regulations exist in the UK, France, Australia, and the US. These regulations apply to many companies and organizations (including private and public purchasers). It is prudent for purchasers to consider a suppliers' human rights program to enable a purchaser to be responsible, protect their reputation, and meet existing or potential compliance requirements.

What purchasers can specify in bid documents

Purchasers can request suppliers to provide web links to their public disclosures related to human rights including modern slavery transparency statements, human rights reports, human rights policies, and corporate social responsibility reports. In addition, purchasers can evaluate companies based on their ranking in the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark and/or Know the Chain.

Transparency disclosures

Table 1.1 Independent third party validation systems

	CDP	**ecovadis**	**SCIENCE BASED TARGETS** DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION	**Corporate Knights**
Organization Name	Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)	EcoVadis	Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi)	Corporate Knights — Global 100
Description & Purpose	CDP is an international non-profit that runs a global environmental disclosure. Over 8,400 organizations voluntarily report to CDP. CDP supports thousands of companies, cities, states, and regions to measure and manage their risks and opportunities on climate change, water security, and deforestation in their supply chain.	Ecovadis is a ratings platform that helps organizations assess social and environmental criteria of potential suppliers. Offerings include sustainability evaluation, risk monitoring and audit management. EcoVadis has rated over 50,000 trading partners in over 160 countries worldwide.	SBTi is seen as the leader in setting the methodology to ensure we reach Paris Agreements and the UN SDG goals by 2030. SBTi champions science-based target setting as a powerful way of boosting companies' competitive advantage in the transition to the low-carbon economy. Nearly 1000 companies, have had their GHG targets approved by the SBTi.	An annual ranking of corporate sustainability performance is released each January for publicly-listed companies with a gross revenue over $1 Billion. "Ranking is based on publicly-disclosed data (e.g., financial filings, sustainability reports). "The methodology is based on up to 21 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
Sustainability Areas	Water security, forests, climate change & supply chain.	Environment, sustainable procurement, human rights & supply chain.	Carbon measurement & goal reduction setting	Resource management, employee management, financial management, clean revenue & supplier performance.

Transparency disclosures

Table 1.1 Cont'ed			
	KNOW THE CHAIN	**HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH**	**FTSE Russell** · **Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes** · **MSCI**
Organization Name	KnowTheChain	Human Rights Watch	Financial ESG ratings (FTSE Russell's ESG Ratings, Dow Jones Sustainability Index, Sustainalytics, MSCI ESG Rating)
Description & Purpose	Provides companies and investors with resources that inform decision-making and compliance for forced labour risks in global supply chains. Uses benchmarking to identify best practices and encourage better labor standards and practices. This benchmark assessed 180 companies in 2020.	An independent, international organization working to advance human rights through research, reports, and advocacy with a focus on the following issues: Arms; Business & Human Rights; Children's Rights; Disability Rights, Environmental Health Rights, Terrorism & Counterterrorism; Health & Human Rights; International Justice; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Rights; Refugees; and Women's Rights. The researchers' methodology is based on gathering information from a wide range of sources, as well as field-based research. In addition to victims & perpetrators, the research also focuses on who is able to take responsibility for stopping violations and influence change.	**FTSE Russell's ESG Ratings:** Allows investors to understand a company's exposure to, and management of, ESG issues in multiple dimensions. Built on over 300 individual indicator assessments that are applied to each company's unique circumstances. **MSCI ESG Ratings:** For measuring the resilience of a company to long-term ESG risks that are financially relevant. Uses artificial intelligence (AI) to inform investment decisions. Identifies industry "leaders and laggards" using a rules-based methodology based on ESG risks (exposure and management). **Dow Jones Sustainability ™ Index:** Comprises global sustainability leaders as identified by SAM. It represents the top 10% of the largest 2,500 companies in the S&P Global BMI based on long-term economic, environmental, and social criteria. **Sustainalytics:** Sustainalytics´ ESG Risk Ratings are used as a key metric for borrower´s and lender´s sustainability performance.
Sustainability Areas	Human rights	Human rights	Environmental Social Governance (ESG)

Supplier Transparency: What to include in Request For Proposals (RFPs) questions

Vendor commitments and performance

- Has the supplier disclosed a comprehensive set of sustainability goals and results against the goals?

- Is the progress on these goals independently audited and verified?

- Does the service provider have specialized skills that encompass secondary market knowledge and data privacy concerns?

- Does the supplier disclose to CDP?

- What areas of CDP do they report on (there are 4: Carbon, water, forests and supply chain)and what is their awarded grade?

- Which awards and recognition have they received Eg Are they listed as one of the top 100 most sustainable corporations worldwide?

- Does the vendor have local and global external recognition?

- Does the company publish a third party-audited annual sustainability report?

General attributes

- Does a company have public statement(s) to social and environmental responsibility (for example, a human rights policy, global citizenship policy, etc.)?

- Have press releases, nongovernmental organizations' accounts, or reports been published about the supplier's social and environmental responsibility program?

- Is the supplier involved in external social and environmental responsibility activities (for example, Responsible Business Alliance, Global e-Sustainability Initiative, Ethical Trading Initiative, etc.)?

Life cycle impacts

- Does the supplier have a comprehensive environmental life cycle for the product (from Design for Sustainability through end-of-use)?

- Does the vendor disclose the energy use of the product allowing you to model the total cost of owning the product, in your geography?

- If products are leased, does the lessor ensure the chain of custody is tightly controlled in accordance with applicable environmental regulations, as well as to protect your data and your customers', clients', or constituents' data?

End-of-use services

- What product take-back programs (recovery, recycling, reuse, etc.) does the supplier offer?

- Does the supplier provide information about the product, battery, and packaging take-back system in printed or electronic format?

- Does the service provider have sufficient experience with security protocols and recycling products to ensure your data protection, environmental protection, & implementation of the circular economy?

- Does the supplier offer recycling globally or in all regions that you need them?

Supply chain responsibility

- Does the company disclose the locations of its manufacturing and recycling sites?

- Does the company have a chemicals management plan and do they apply the precautionary principle? How is it managed into their supply chain?

- Does the company have specific public, social, and environmental responsibility requirements for its suppliers (such as a code or policy that covers labor, health and safety, environment, and ethics)?

Examples of sustainable Request For Proposals (RFPs) topics & specifications

Make questions MANDATORY criteria

1. **Provide the total cost of ownership (TCO) for the services/products**

   – Score higher if overall costs are lower and include end of (first) life management

2. **List all Ecolabels applicable to this product**

   – In technical specifications section of bid document and score higher for better ratings e.g. EPEAT Gold

3. **Identify how this service or product assists you in meeting your sustainability goals**

   – Score higher if alignment between vendor & your goals and actions

4. **List your CDP (carbon, forests, water, and supply chain) and EcoVadis scores**

   – In technical specifications section of bid documents and score higher for better ratings

   – Ask for CDP scores for Climate Change, Forests & Water Security—Look for high performing organizations (A grade)

   – Has the supplier implemented science-based targets? If yes, attach

5. **List your company carbon footprint and goals to reduce it**

   – Score higher for goals in all 3 areas of business (supply chain, operations, customer use)

6. **Identify % of post-consumer, ocean-bound and/or closed loop plastics in the products and your publicly stated recycled content goal**

   – Score higher for all 3, for the ambition of the goal, and for higher % of content

   – List the third party organizations that validate the recycled content in your plastics

   – Score higher for UL 2809 (Environmental Claim Validation Procedure for Recycled Content) and/or TÜV Rheinland

Measurability and reporting

Sustainability criteria should be used only if they are:

- Measurable and referencing an existing standard

- Comparable, i.e., enabling comparisons between competing services or products

- Verifiable by the purchaser or through a procurement rating agency such as Eco Vadis or ranking agency based on publicly available and audited data such as CDP.

- Reporting baselines and results of your sustainable procurement activities helps drive the process forward

Why focus on plastics: estimates are that a garbage truck of plastic is dumped into the ocean every minute and that by 2050 unless we do something differently there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean.

While there are many contributing factors to this issue a significant one is that there is little demand for post-consumer plastics. Procurement professionals have the power to change this. By simply requiring every plastic item you buy (nearly everything has plastic in it) to contain a minimum percentage of post-consumer plastics and indicate that you intend to increase this requirement, you will create change on a massive scale.

Forests and sustainable procurement

With climate change impacts already evident and impacting forests through fire, drought, and disease, resilient forests are critical. Trees are the world's best carbon sequestering technology. They remove the carbon that is responsible for climate change from our atmosphere as they grow. It is estimated that they could remove 5 to 7 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide annually[13] if we protect, restore, and improve the management of the world's threatened forests. That is like eliminating emissions from all the cars in the world today for a year. The procurement of all wood-based products such as paper and paper-based packaging can easily be improved to protect forests.

At its foundations, having a sustainable paper and wood policy that clearly spells out the principles for making and buying paper and wood-based products is needed in today's organizations. The principles underpinning such a policy are: responsible forest management; efficient use of raw materials; clean manufacturing; and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

The use of paper is the largest impact from printing so ask your IT and paper vendors questions such as:

- Are they buying paper from certified sources—such as FSC®?

- What are their policies for zero deforestation, and does it apply to their packaging AND paper products?

- Are they transparent in their work on forests by disclosing to CDP or other agencies?

By requiring all paper products to be certified to Forestry Stewardship Council® (FSC®), you ensure they are coming from responsibly managed forests. FSC® is the gold standard in forest management. It is an ecolabel applied to wood-based products and FSC-certification indicates that they are sourced from well-managed forests. It assures that biodiversity, people's land rights, and the health and regenerative abilities of plant and animal species are protected. Such forests support the livelihoods of local communities and give them reasons to keep forests standing instead of developing the land for other uses.

Increasing the proportion of recycled and certified fiber used globally depends heavily on sustainable procurement. This can be accomplished by ensuring the sustained practice of buying recycled AND certified fiber in our own organizations and ensure that those in our supply chains are doing the same. One often overlooked area is outsourced print materials like flyers and other marketing materials.

In this critical decade of climate action, moving from doing "less harm" to being proactive in helping to manage the world's forests is a great indicator of the leadership needed to tackle climate change. Leading IT organizations go further and contribute to the restoration, protection, and improved management of the world's forests for the longevity of the planet and their business.
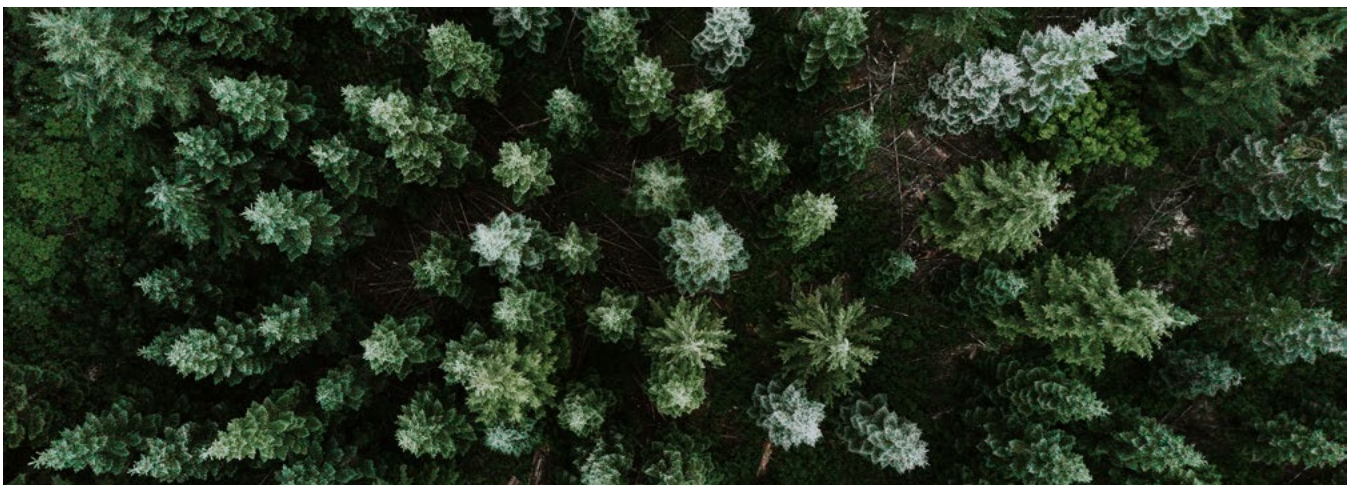
Evaluating Supplier Relationships

How supplier engagement improves your procurement processes and outcomes	Examples	Details
Providing timely information that enables you to create bid document specifications that meet your goals and drive the market for advancing sustainability	With the rise in data security breaches many older bid documents did not include security requirements. Technology vendors are carefully monitoring the requirements for security- ask them for guidance	Vendors can also assist with specific answers that you may expect/need to prevent greenwashing
Ongoing support for your sustainability program through the provision of services as part of the circular economy	There are many examples that can assist you: in both reporting and managing your sustainability data for continuous improvement	• Right sizing of printer Fleets • Reports on energy & paper use • Reuse reports • Employee engagement data • Security audits and advice • Predictive and preventative maintenance

Here are some additional considerations when evaluating the supply chain responsibility of suppliers[13]

1. **Developing and communicating measurable labor and human rights expectations for suppliers**
Companies identify and communicate requirements their suppliers must meet to address negative labor and human rights impacts. These requirements are expressed in terms so that audits or other types of assessments can be conducted against them. The requirements are stated in a Supplier Code of Conduct, Supplier Policies or similar document(s). Companies expect their suppliers to adhere to this Code of Conduct or Supplier Policy.

2. **Supplier risk screening**
Companies have a process for screening their suppliers to determine which are more likely to have labor and human rights violations.

3. **Assessing suppliers to confirm implementation of Codes and Policies**
Companies have a process to assess how the requirements in their Codes of Conduct or Supplier Policies are being implemented by their suppliers.

4. **Responsible sourcing practice**
Companies incorporate data on supplier human rights and labor rights performance into their sourcing decisions.

5. **Corrective action**
Companies use the outcomes of the supplier assessment process to address any negative labor and human rights issues that are identified.

6. **Continuous improvement**
Companies engage with their suppliers, usually management representatives, to help them build the internal capacity needed to continually meet or exceed the expectations outlined in their Supplier Code of Conduct or Supplier Policies. This can include companies investing in technology improvements for their suppliers.

7. **Capacity building**
Companies support programs that empower the facility workers, their families, and their direct communities.

8. **Reporting**
Companies report on their supplier management practices and on the labor and human rights performance of their suppliers to internal and external stakeholders.

9. **Impacts from raw material extraction**
Companies describe their efforts to address labor and human rights impacts at the extraction phase of production.

10. **External collaboration**
Companies support external organizations to address labor and human rights impacts at scale, i.e. work as part of an industry association, support NGOs or seek to influence the negative labor and human rights policies and practices of the governments where the company operates.

Accelerate the circular economy

Procurement and sustainability professionals can leverage the power of sustainable procurement within their organizations to achieve organizational sustainability objectives and advance the circular economy. The 'way we buy and what we buy' has a significant impact by transforming the typical 'end of life' into a useful second (+) life, or into a useable resource.

By evaluating a supplier's approach to three key drivers of the circular economy—Product Design, Transparency & Performance, and Supplier Relationships—procurement professionals can identify the best suppliers and their products and services that algin with the collective vision of a sustainable future. The evaluation allows organizations to review impacts to their bottom line that may otherwise be concealed or obscured using traditional methods. Lower operating, replacement and waste disposal costs, improved security, and overall better user satisfaction are the results of mitigating environmental, social, and economic impacts. Leveraging your procurement actions to drive a circular economy is probably the biggest impact any organization can make.

Through sustainable procurement we purchase the future we want.

To learn more, visit hp.com/sustainableimpact or contact your HP account manager.

References

There are several tools and resources that can help you find ways to contribute to the transition to a low-carbon, energy-efficient, and circular economy.

- HP Sustainable Paper and Wood Policy

- ISO 20400:2017 Sustainable Procurement – Guidance

- EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool)

- Ellen MacArthur Foundation

1. UN Report Article

2. Ellen MacArthur Foundation

3. ECPAR

4. TCO White Paper: Impacts and Insights: Circular IT Management in Practice

5. HP White Paper on Service based Models and Environmental Impact

6. "Deeds Not Words: The Growth Of Climate Action In The Corporate World," Natural Capital Partners, September 2019