

Procuring Sustainability

Best Practices in Municipal Green Procurement



April 19, 2023



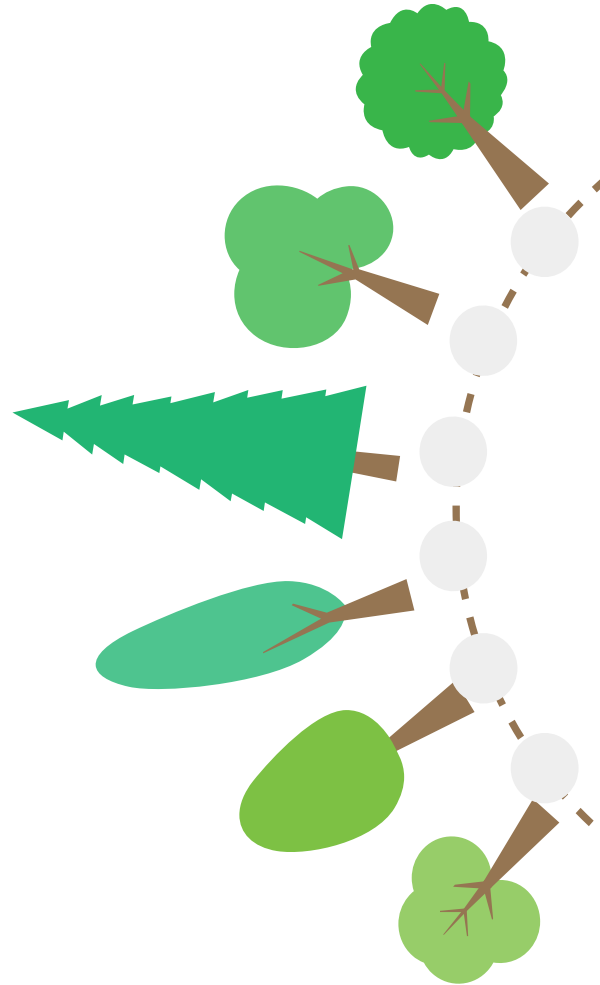
Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are gathered today on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. We acknowledge that this is sacred land upon which we are privileged to live and work.

This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

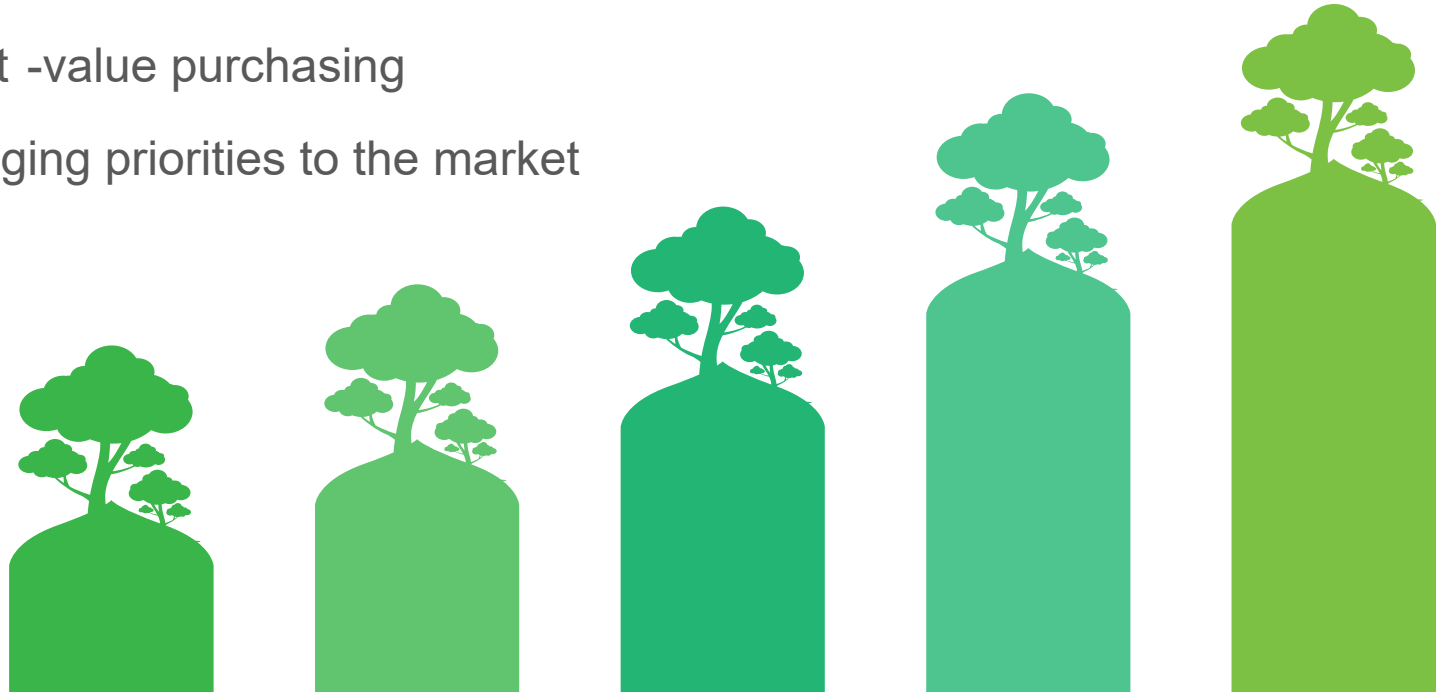
What is green procurement?

- “The purchasing of goods and services that minimize environmental impact”
- Social and ethical impacts are also considered
- In municipal settings, this spans a wide range of goods and services
 - Construction materials
 - Fleets
 - Buildings
 - Food & supplies



Why is green procurement important?

- Advance municipal sustainability goals and enhance climate commitments
- Allows for best -value purchasing
- Signal to changing priorities to the market



Project Objectives



Highlight best practices in green procurement and identify common barriers in municipal operations



Demystify green procurement, increase transparency, and demonstrate success stories for knowledge sharing



Create a centralized and accessible information resource for municipal procurement staff

Methodology

- Research conducted in two phases to identify best practices for green procurement in Canadian and American municipalities
- Focused on daily operational procurement (excluding municipal fleets, buildings, and transportation practices)

Phase 1: Review of municipal policies and documents

- Reviewed CAP 2012 scan
- Examined municipal websites, policies, and documentation

Phase 2: Surveys and interviews

- Conducted two interviews with personnel and managers in municipal procurement from Vancouver and York Region
- Short survey shared via CAP newsletter

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Best Practices in Municipal Green Procurement

Cooperative Purchasing

- Organizations collaborating to purchase goods and services collectively
- Lead to cost savings, increased efficiency, better access to goods and services, and facilitate the adoption of environmentally friendly procurement practices

Case Study: York Purchasing Co-operative

- Provides sustainable procurement and competitive pricing for members
- Prioritize eco-friendly products, local suppliers
- Improves knowledge and facilitates green procurement adoption



Environmental Criteria in Bid Consideration

- Formally stating and evaluating the environmental impact of products and services being procured
- Integrated into the procurement process, from bid document development to supplier bid proposal evaluation
 - E.g. Give specific weight to sustainability criteria and favoring suppliers with sustainable practices

Case Study: Aurora

- Consider climate change impacts by including green procurement evaluation criteria and specifications in project bid documents
- Evaluation criteria and specifications are transparent, rationally connected to the procurement project, and include pass-fail and scoring requirements

Green Supplies

Green Office Supplies

- Financial Cost → Sustainable Consideration (Environmental Impact)
- Minimizing waste, GHG emissions
- Energy efficient, recycled materials

Green Cleaning & Hygiene

- Non-toxic and natural ingredients
- More sustainable end -of-life option
- Misconception: Effectiveness

Reporting & Tracking Green Procurement Progress

- Ongoing monitoring of green procurement progress
 - E.g. counting green purchases, quantifying emissions reductions, and reviewing the procurement budget allocation
- Updating stakeholders on the results of green procurement in a transparent and clear manner

Case Study: Whitehorse

- Requires staff to submit a semi-annual report to the City Council on procurement outcomes incorporating sustainability requirements in solicitation documents over \$100,000



Life - Cycle Analysis

- Total evaluation of a product's life-cycle
- Allows for 'best -value' consideration by encompassing economic, environmental, and social factors
- Full life-cycle analysis often demonstrates that more sustainable products are also more financially viable options



Prioritization of Local Procurement

- Prioritization of local vendors
- Reduces GHG emissions associated with transportations
- Local economy, and environment



Case Study: Montreal

- **Responsible Procurement Policy**
 - ESG (+ economic) factors into purchasing decisions
- **Economic consideration**
 - Business location; the share of products and services acquired, designed, produced, assembled locally; the holding of share capital by persons residing in Quebec and Canada
- **Provides an incentive for local entrepreneurs to transition towards an ESG, circular, and low carbon economy**

Recycled Materials

- Prioritizing products that use recycled materials can be environmentally friendly and cost - effective
- Eliminates landfill waste
- Conserves natural resources by eliminating the need for raw material extraction
- Reduces the energy required for manufacturing new materials

Case Study: Aurora & Recycled Concrete

The Town of Aurora Incorporated recycled concrete material as a provisional item in its 2021 road reconstruction project to encourage sustainable construction and building practices for town-owned infrastructure.



Green Procurement Education & Awareness

Education

- Internal training for municipal staff
- Providing tools & resources for successful implementation of green procurement
- Promote organizational culture
- Empower employees across sectors to engage with and be aware of climate goals

Awareness

- Publicize sustainability commitments in clear language
 - Explicit wording on what is being evaluated in a bid
- Promote opportunities collaboration with vendors

Third Party Certifications

- Evaluate and verify compliance with environmental, social, and ethical standards
- Provide a reliable and independent assessment of a product or service's environmental and social impact



Waste Reduction

- Considerations of the amount of waste generated through both packaging and usage
- Consider procuring reusable or recyclable products and avoiding excess packaging, or single-use products

Case Study: Oakville

Past: Used Keurig K-Cup® pods

- Disposed plastic pods

New: Used Keurig K-Cup® pods

- Sent pods back to recycle

Even further: Purchase coffee in bulk and grind its own coffee beans

- Encouraging to drink out of reusable mugs
- Only organic waste

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Unique Practices in Green Procurement

Province of PEI: Energy Technology Investment Fund

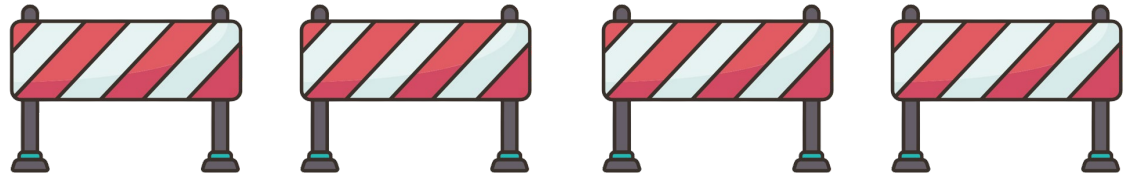
- A fund that incentivizes the procurement of sustainable technology and infrastructure
- Available to government departments or agencies responsible for operating and maintaining government facilities
 - For the purchase of technologies that reduce energy usage and increase the overall energy efficiency of that facility
- Designed to be self-sustaining by reinvesting savings gained from the technology into the fund
- Long-term innovation implications

City of Denver: Road De - icing

- NaCl vs MgCl₂
 - NaCl contains 60% of Sulphates vs MgCl₂ contains 40%
- Sulphates negatively impacts the hydrological ecosystem
- Solution: using unique blends of naturally occurring minerals
- EnviroTech Services
 - Ice Slicer® and Meltdown Apex®

Barriers

- Lack of awareness and knowledge
- High staff turnover can lead to a loss of expertise
- Procurement silos hinder sustainability experts' ability to provide recommendations
- Policy is crucial in driving green practices, but demand and education are necessary for its implementation



Recommendations




Employee
empowerment &
education

Enabling municipal
staff to act on green
procurement and
make sustainable
choices even if
explicit policy is not
yet in place

Facilitate and
participate in
knowledge sharing
and collaboration

Explicit
language and
ambitious
targets

Interactive Tool: Green Procurement Database

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1	Database of Green Procurement Practices in Municipalities															
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6	Municipality: <input type="text"/>			Year Updated: <input type="text"/>												
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