

Benefits of Sustainable Purchasing

Sustainable purchasing means making sure that purchased goods and services generate **benefits**, not only for the organization, but also for the environment, society and the economy. Leadership therefore requires thinking expansively and holistically about the full range of benefits that an organization may be able to achieve through strategic sustainable purchasing. The lists below includes opportunities for both increasing (▲) benefits and **reducing (▼) negative impacts**. The worksheet is intended to spark ideas for discussion internally and with stakeholders, but not all benefits will be relevant or available to every organization or purchasing category, nor is the list exhaustive.* For more information about how to think about environmental, social, and economic impacts, please refer to SPLC's *Principles for Leadership in Sustainable Purchasing*. **What other benefits can you think of?**

Internal Benefits

Tangible

Sustainable purchasing provides tangible economic benefits to the organization.

- ▲ innovation (new value creation)
 - ▲ process efficiency
 - ▲ performance tracking
 - ▼ cost
 - ▼ regulatory burden
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Intangible

Sustainable purchasing provides intangible economic benefits to the organization.

- ▲ employee satisfaction
 - ▲ customer satisfaction
 - ▲ supplier relationships
 - ▲ brand value
 - ▲ investor visibility
 - ▼ business risk
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External Benefits

Environment

Sustainable purchasing benefits the natural systems on which life depends, now and in the future.

- ▲ biodiversity preservation
 - ▲ climate adaptation
 - ▲ resource optimization
 - ▲ soil health stewardship
 - ▼ acidification
 - ▼ desertification
 - ▼ eutrophication
 - ▼ freshwater pollution
 - ▼ greenhouse gas emissions
 - ▼ habitat depletion
 - ▼ human health impacts
 - ▼ land use change
 - ▼ marine pollution
 - ▼ ozone depletion
 - ▼ radiation pollution
 - ▼ resource depletion
 - ▼ smog
 - ▼ waste
 - ▼ water consumption
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Society

Sustainable purchasing benefits the social systems on which community cohesion depends.

- ▲ community engagement
 - ▲ diversity/equal opportunity
 - ▲ employee engagement
 - ▲ equal remuneration
 - ▲ fair trade
 - ▲ freedom of association
 - ▲ grievance & remedy processes
 - ▲ human rights
 - ▲ indigenous rights
 - ▲ occupational health & safety
 - ▲ right to collective bargaining
 - ▲ sustainable compensation
 - ▲ training and education
 - ▲ worker rights
 - ▼ discrimination
 - ▼ child labor
 - ▼ forced/compulsory labor
 - ▼ human trafficking
 - ▼ sourcing from conflict zones
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Economy

Sustainable purchasing benefits the health of the markets on which commerce depends.

- ▲ fair dealings
 - ▲ innovation research / investment
 - ▲ open competition
 - ▲ transparency of information
 - ▲ use of diverse suppliers
 - ▲ use of HUB zones
 - ▲ use of local suppliers
 - ▼ conflicts of interest
 - ▼ corruption (bribery, extortion...)
 - ▼ dividing territories
 - ▼ dumping
 - ▼ exclusive dealing
 - ▼ misleading market claims
 - ▼ monopoly (seller collusion)
 - ▼ monopsony (buyer collusion)
 - ▼ patent misuse
 - ▼ price fixing
 - ▼ product tying
 - ▼ refusal to deal
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Key Factors affecting Sustainable Purchasing

Leadership in sustainable purchasing involves thinking expansively and holistically about the full range of factors and operating contexts that an organization may need to consider and address when implementing a purchasing program. Where an organization can produce the greatest benefits through sustainable purchasing will depend on the organization's unique spend profile and operating context. This worksheet is intended to spark ideas for discussion internally and with stakeholders about which factors shape your organization's greatest opportunities. For more information about how to think about factors affecting sustainable purchasing, please refer to the *Guidance for Leadership in Sustainable Purchasing v2.0*, available on the SPLC Community.

What other factors might affect an organization's sustainable purchasing program?

Sector

The sector in which an organization operates may affect purchasing decisions.

corporate
local gov't
state/provincial gov't
national gov't
manufacturer
service provider
retailer
higher education

Organization Type

An organization's type may affect purchasing decisions.

small, medium, large
centralized, decentralized
private, public
for-profit, nonprofit
franchise model

Locale

The geographical locale in which an organization operates may affect purchasing decisions.

regulations/jurisdiction
geography
climate
natural resources

Additional Factors
