



# SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

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## What is a Sustainable Purchasing Program?

A Sustainable Purchasing Program is an allocation of political will, time, and resources for the purpose of strategically reducing the social, environmental, and economic impacts and risks present in an organization's supply chain and supply base. Leading Sustainable Purchasing Programs typically operate ahead of the day-to-day procurement process in order to:

1. **evaluate** the impacts and risks across all spending,
2. **prioritize** the areas with greatest opportunity for performance improvement,
3. **convene** cross-functional teams and stakeholders to develop action plans for capturing the highest priority opportunities,
4. **coordinate** the implementation of action plans within the day-to-day procurement process and operations of the organization, and
5. **track** and benchmark performance over time,
6. **report** performance to senior leaders and third parties (e.g., CSR reports, CDP).

"SPLC's Guidance has allowed us to apply an unprecedented strategic approach to our sustainable procurement efforts, and brought more attention and excitement to our program than I have seen in years."

*KARL BRUSKOTTER*  
Sustainability Analyst  
City of Santa Monica



## Benefits of a Sustainable Purchasing Program

### Save money.

The most sustainable purchase is often an avoided purchase. Sustainable purchasing emphasizes eliminating waste, hidden costs, and inefficiency.

### Respond to market expectations.

CEO's, shareholders, equity investors, taxpayers, and customers are increasingly expecting organizations to take responsibility for activities that occur within their supply chains.

### Promote innovation.

Buyers and sellers report that sustainable purchasing inspires collaboration that promotes innovation and delivers value for both parties.

### Reduce risk from complex supply chains.

By engaging key suppliers to get visibility into the environmental, social, and economic performance of their activities – and those of their suppliers – buyers can mitigate risks and increase supply chain resiliency.

### Proactively address significant impacts.

Large organizations with mature sustainability programs are increasingly discovering that the scale of the sustainability impacts and opportunities in their supply chain are many multiples of those "within their four walls."

### Demonstrate leadership.

Organizations that take a strategic leadership approach to supply chain engagement position themselves ahead of the market, in terms of customer perception, investor confidence, employee satisfaction, and supplier development.

### Unify existing efforts.

Sustainable Purchasing Programs often bring together and build on supply chain responsibility initiatives already being undertaken, such as supplier diversity, supplier codes, anti-corruption, child labor, human rights, conflict minerals, worker safety, energy conservation, climate mitigation, recycled paper, etc



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"I'm really excited to see a group coming together to do what all of us purchasing managers have been wanting to see for a long time."

NICOLE JACKSON  
Sustainable Sourcing &  
Travel Manager  
World Wildlife Fund

## What is the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council?

The Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support and recognize purchasing leadership that accelerates the transition to a prosperous and sustainable future.

Founded in 2013, SPLC convenes buyers, suppliers, and public interest advocates to develop programs that simplify and standardize sustainable purchasing efforts by large organizations. In four years, the Council has attracted more than 180 members with over \$200 billion in collective purchasing power from across regions and sectors. In 2016, SPLC released Guidance for Leadership in Sustainable Purchasing v2.0, which has been called the "most comprehensive literature to date" on sustainable purchasing. Hundreds of organizations are now using SPLC's *Guidance*, training videos, and online community of practice to implement strategic sustainable purchasing programs.

## SPLC membership enables highly effective Sustainable Purchasing Programs

### Increase productivity.

SPLC's programs can help organizations avoid expending energy and money re-inventing the wheel or working on low-return initiatives.

### Access expert people and information.

SPLC's members share peer-to-peer their real-world experiences implementing best-available guidance and tools.

### Act with confidence.

When they utilize guidance vetted by SPLC's Technical Advisory Groups, organizations can have confidence that they are implementing credible and leadership-oriented strategies for addressing supply chain impacts.

### Reduce consulting costs.

SPLC's *Guidance*, trainings, and community of practice allow consulting to be reserved for ground-breaking work.

### Access affordable training.

SPLC's webinars, video library, workshops, and forthcoming CEU modules allow organizations to avoid the cost of developing custom training.

### Simplify supplier engagement.

SPLC members are creating shared tools and programs for educating suppliers about sustainability and supporting the development of their sustainability capabilities.

### Gain forward-looking insights.

Engaging with SPLC's leadership community of practice offers insight into leading peer efforts, shifts in market direction, and emerging best practices.

### Get guidance that meets unique needs.

By participating on the SPLC program committees, organizations can ensure that SPLC understands their unique needs and challenges, so that SPLC's programs can address them.

### Earn leadership recognition.

SPLC's annual awards program presents members with an opportunity to share and have their efforts be recognized. The Council's *Rating System for Leadership in Sustainable Purchasing* will provide organizations with a credible third party leadership recognition opportunity.



"As a founding member, FedEx is using SPLC's *Guidance* to build on our existing efforts to drive and refine sustainability language into our contracts. The structured approach ensures stakeholder alignment and provides transparency throughout the process."

PAT HOPPER  
Director, Sourcing  
FedEx Services

## Join the Council

[See current members.](#)

[Make the case.](#)

[Benefits.](#)

[Dues.](#)

[Application.](#)

"SPLC keeps us up to date on the latest thinking in supply chain sustainability. We benefit from being part of a community where next practices are shared and challenging issues are discussed in a collaborative forum."

JOAN KERR  
Director, Supplier Sustainability and Diversity  
PG&E

