



SUSTAINABLE
PURCHASING
LEADERSHIP
COUNCIL



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

One of the most valued benefits of SPLC members is the access to our interconnected and empowered sustainable purchasing community. In the interest of supporting, and expanding, those invaluable peer connections, the SPLC has developed multiple ways for members to engage with each other throughout the year. Foremost among these opportunities are our Community Collaboration groups, which leverage peer support and learning to help members go further faster.

Read more about SPLC Peer Learning Circles, Action Teams, and Topical Learning Circles below, and email info@sustainablepurchasing.org for details on how to get involved in any of these Community Collaborations.

Peer Learning Circles

Peer Learning Circles are designed to support members in leading their organization toward more strategic and impactful sustainable procurement. PLC participation is a standard benefit of SPLC membership. These virtual circles of 4-6 participants meet for 1 hour each month to provide each other with direct support and feedback on specific challenges through a case study/clinic format. Peer Learning Circle participants access the knowledge of professional colleagues working on similar issues, the opportunity to learn from others' experiences, and a web of personal support to help navigate the challenging waters of effecting organizational change. The SPLC is currently supporting Peer Learning Circles for the Public, Enterprise, and Higher Education sectors.



Action Teams

Member-led topical Action Teams address emerging issues and new opportunities to meet the need of members for timely guidance development. Action Teams are small groups of SPLC members that address a single emerging or challenging issue or category area. These groups, expert on the issues involved and highly motivated to address specific procurement challenges, convene for a limited time to develop interim guidance on a given topic, solicit expert review, and then share their work product with the SPLC community. SPLC provides these groups with recruitment and convening support, as well as a template for their final output, and we provide the guidance to our member Community as a starting point for addressing a critical area of work. Any member looking for support addressing an emerging sustainable purchasing topic can contact us to discuss establishing an Action Team; and public interest advocate members who have specific proposals for how procurement can drive positive change on a specific issue can leverage Action Teams to engage and activate the power of procurement professionals!

SPLC Action Team outputs: [Purchasing Recommendations for Sustainable Food Service Ware](#); [Purchasing Recommendations for Climate Friendly Refrigerants](#)

Topical Learning Circles

To address broad and challenging topics – like supply chain greenhouse gas emissions or circular economy procurement – members need peer support, as well as in-depth information from experts who can demonstrate promising methods and strategies, identify challenges, and highlight opportunities. To confront such complex issues, Topical Learning Circles bring a mid-sized group together for project-based learning combined with expert knowledge sharing. TLCs are intended to run for a year, and may continue thereafter. Members can work on individual projects, and/or take advantage of the opportunity to develop shared approaches. The Topical Learning Circle process also includes regular consultation with experts on topics relevant to the group’s focal issue. In addition, TLCs follow the case consult model of Peer Learning Circles, to provide guidance and support from peers, and updates on the progress of group members’ projects. SPLC’s first Topical Learning Circle – the Circular Economy Procurement TLC – is underway right now, with participation from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and SPLC members from the public and higher ed sectors.

For more information on SPLC’s Community Collaborations and SPLC membership, please contact info@sustainablepurchasing.org

“SPLC’s Peer Learning Circle has given [us] access to invaluable resources and a connection to others in similar programs and positions that will help guide the program.”

– Kayla Kutter, University of Colorado