

University of Hyderabad Sustainable Procurement and Purchasing Policy (UHSPPP)

1. Introduction

Sustainable procurement and purchasing are integral to pursuing sustainable development goals and practices. Incorporating sustainability considerations into the organisation's purchasing decisions is crucial in achieving long-term sustainable development (European International Contractors, 2004). Sustainable procurement practices enhance organisational efficiency and transparency along with financial savings. (McMurray et al., 2014). The Commission of the European Communities, 2008 has recognised the idea of Green procurement as, "... a process whereby public authorities seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle when compared to goods, services and works with the same primary function that would otherwise be procured". Around the globe and in India higher educational institutions are encouraged to procure goods, services, and work sustainably to address their environmental footprint effectively. Since institutions and universities spend on procuring goods, services, and work for their day-to-day maintenance activities, research projects, conferences, seminars, training, outreach, and miscellaneous academic activities, their spending has multiplier effects on other sectors in the local, sub-national and national economies. Thus, sustainable practices by universities like ours will encourage sustainable practices by agents involved in the supply chain. This policy, the University of Hyderabad Sustainable Procurement and Purchasing Policy(UHSPP) addresses sustainability concerns and serves as an addition to the existing University of Hyderabad Purchase Policy(UHPP).

2. Objective and Scope

The objective of the UHSPP is to ensure and adopt the best sustainability practices while procuring goods, services, and work following the operational procedure outlined in the UHPP.

The UHSPP applies to all procurement and purchasing activities undertaken by the university's central purchasing unit, schools, departments, centres, administrative units, engineering and works, hostels, and all other ancillary units for their goods, services, and work needs. The UHPP, which complies with the General Financial Rules(2017), is in force and gets amended occasionally, incorporating changes in GFR notified by the Govt. of India and the university's competent authority. The UHSPP serves as an add-on to sustainability, keeping the UHPP intact. All the units will strive towards sustainable procurement and purchase in a phased manner in compliance with the procedure given in the UHPP.

3. Key Principles

The following key principles govern the procurement and purchase of goods, services, and work by all the units in the university.

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Compliance with the UHPP and GFR 2017 and the amendments, if any, from time to time.

Any new or fresh procurement and purchase is to be guided by a strong justification of the requirement and obsolescence of the items, including a buy-back option for obsolete items and proper disposal of scraps while keeping a clean environment in view.

Sustainability being at the core, all goods procured must be eco-friendly and energy-efficient, minimising their impact on the immediate environment and society at large. The procurement needs to promote goods made of biodegradable and recyclable materials as far as possible. Sustainability practices in all activities will influence and encourage procurement and purchase of eco-friendly goods and services. The practices include initiatives for recycling and trash reduction, as well as eco-friendly modes of transportation. Some examples are as follows:

- i. Banning the usage of plastic goods or restricting to utilise only biodegradable disposables
- ii. EV-mode vehicles may be encouraged, and the competent authority shall formulate a policy to purchase EV-mode vehicles for official use.
- iii. A tie-up with EV automotive dealers at the university level for getting higher discounts for the purchase of vehicles by the University fraternity.
- iv. Best practices followed by the university fraternity/residents may be encouraged by giving appreciation letters/ awards for achieving sustainable goals.
- v. Philanthropic or CSR funding shall be mobilised to acquire EVs for transport, reducing the usage of diesel buses on campus.
- vi. From gate to gate, major points on campus, bicycles are to be used by residents and visitors, as a campaign for green transport.

4. Actionable Procurement Methods

The UHPP procedure and methods, including Government e-marketplace, Direct purchase, and other modes of tender enquiry, will be followed by all concerned, considering the sustainability principles outlined in section 3 above.

To encourage the procurement of eco-friendly goods and services, users should prefer vendors with sustainability standards and certifications, including ISO 14001 environmental management systems. The purchase proposal shall have space for such certification and a section on sustainability certification.

Procurement of single-use plastic-based goods and other environmentally damaging goods shall be completely banned.

Units and users shall be encouraged to source goods from Local producers, Women Self Help Groups and Small and Medium Enterprises keeping inclusion and reducing environmental costs due to long-distance transportation.

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The bidders for different services called by the university should comply with sustainability practices. All tender documents shall be modified to include the sustainability practices and certificates by the bidders.

E-procurement, E-tendering, and data storage methods will be strengthened to avoid the use of files and papers and the storage management of physical documents.

Collaborate with university departments and suppliers to increase knowledge of sustainability and the advantages of a more sustainable economy.

All units/users shall ensure that procurement procedures for the execution of works and for procurement of services and supplies are implemented in a fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective manner.

5. Review of UHSPP

The policy will be reviewed periodically by a committee constituted by the competent authority, reflecting and incorporating regulatory changes, changes in GFR, and sustainability concerns.


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