

Sustainable Procurement Policy

In creating and maintaining the built environment we select and use a large volume of resources. The choices we make have a significant impact on people, organisations and the wider environment. We have developed a Sustainable Procurement Policy outlining how we and our supply chain will influence procurement choices of goods, works and services to; increase value for money; reduce consumption of primary resources; mitigate impacts on the environment; and deliver a healthier built environment. By operating in line with this policy we will play our part in reducing risks, safeguarding natural resources, delivering value to our Clients, improving resource efficiency, traceability and transparency, as well as leaving a positive legacy on biodiversity and safeguarding natural capital.

Our approach to sustainable procurement is in line with the principles contained within BS8903. This standard was created to help pursue best procurement practice.

Our Sustainable Procurement Policy's aims and objectives are to:

- Use fewer resources and less energy through continuous improvement and the use of innovative solutions
- Procure all timber and timber products from legal and sustainable sources, and procure other construction materials with a preference for recognised responsible sourcing schemes
- Specify and procure materials and products that strike a responsible balance between social, economic and environmental factors and generate benefits to society and the economy
- Use resource-efficient products and give due consideration to end-of-life uses
- Promote, specify and source materials which can be reused, and consider future deconstruction and recovery of resources to embrace the circular economy to leave a sustainable legacy across the built environment
- Where possible procure locally, providing opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), collaborate with the voluntary sector and increase the use of social enterprises to support local employment, diversity and training
- Ensure that fair contract prices and terms are applied and respected, and that ethical, human rights and labour standards are met, in line with our Modern Slavery Policy and the United Nations Global Compact principles
- Source goods, works and services that embody our environmental policy, health & safety policy and support the delivery of our Sustainable Development Strategy
- Enhance the health and wellbeing of the people and communities we work with by promoting materials and products that improve indoor environmental quality
- Our Sustainable Procurement Policy is one of a number of ways in which Universal Group demonstrate social, environmental and economic responsibility

Signed 
Managing Director

Dated 01/11/2024