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# Countryside Partnerships Sustainable Procurement Policy

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## Who we are

We are a leading developer of mixed-tenure homes. We create places where people love to live with sustainable communities built to last. We work in partnership with local and central government, housing associations and the private rented sector. Our values of caring, growing together, taking pride, and always delivering are very important to us.

## What we do

We recognise that our business depends on complex supply chains and that our procurement decisions have a global social and environmental impact. We want to work with companies that share our values and commitment to sustainability. We also want to make sure that our relationships benefit both our supply chain and Countryside.

While the main aim of this policy is to promote responsible and ethical procurement of materials and labour in our business, the principles also cover other areas like buying furnishings, stationery, and IT equipment, which are required in our wider operations.

## Our objectives

- To select new supply chain partners that have exemplary sustainability credentials;
- To work with our supply chain to safeguard the environment and support ethical labour practices; and
- To be net zero across our operations and value chain by 2030.

Our objectives are supported by procurement targets in our Approach to Sustainability:

- 100% sustainably sourced timber procured for building operations per year
- 40% less embodied carbon in our factory-built timber frame homes by 2025
- 80% less CO2 emissions from directly hired plant and generators on site by 2023
- 85% of our supply chain to be signed up to the Supply Chain Sustainability School by 2025
- 60% of our supply chain to have Science-Based Carbon Targets in place by 2025

## How we do it

- We include social and environmental criteria in our pre-qualification, tender and contract assessments.
- We actively talk about social and environmental issues in meetings throughout the procurement process.
- We make sure our supply chain follows this policy and legislation by monitoring their environmental and social performance. We also ensure they have a clear process to resolve any breaches that may arise.
- We encourage our supply chain partners to set targets, monitor, and report on their environmental and social performance.
- We work collaboratively with our supply chain to reduce waste, emissions, and resource consumption by exploring alternative materials or technologies that support our net zero ambitions.
- We only procure timber that is certified to an internationally recognised certification scheme e.g., Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).
- We work with local contractors and suppliers to support local economies and minimise transport emissions.
- We reserve the right to audit our supply chain against this policy.
- We train our internal procurement teams on environment and social issues and offer free membership to the Supply Chain Sustainability School to all our partners.
- We measure, monitor, and report our performance against the targets, and report these publicly to stakeholders.

## Our expectations

Our supply chain must:

- Comply with all relevant legislation that impacts our operations and their supply chain;
- Follow our Business Ethics and Code of Conduct Policy;
- Report any breaches in environmental legislation immediately to us;
- Integrate international labour standards into their operations, such as the International Labour

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Organisation conventions or Ethical Trading Initiative Base Code;

- Be members of the Supply Chain Sustainability School;
- Have policies and procedures in place that respond to critical environmental and social risks, such as modern slavery, anti-corruption and bribery, climate change and biodiversity;
- Attend toolbox talks and other training sessions on sustainable procurement that we hold;
- Work with us to help us achieve our targets; and
- Provide data when we request it.

We preferentially select supply chain partners who:

- Offer products and services that are certified to quality schemes (e.g. BS EN 1090), comply with standards of responsible sourcing (e.g. BES 6001) or have Environmental Product Declarations (EPD);
- Have, or are seeking to attain, ISO accreditations of their management systems;
- Are signed up or certified to an ethical and social standard (e.g. SA 8000, Ethical Trading Initiative, UN Global Compact, SEDEX);
- Pay their employees the real Living Wage, as defined by the Living Wage Foundation;
- Drive innovation of products and services that reduce environmental impact;
- Are Gold-Level Supply Chain Sustainability School members;
- Work to incorporate reused or recycled materials in their products, minimise packaging and reduce transport emissions; and
- Measure and report their waste and carbon emissions.

## Keeping this policy up to date

The Executive Committee and Sustainability Committee have overall responsibility for matters relating to sustainable procurement.

This policy is available on our website and displayed in our workplaces. It is reviewed annually.

Our Sustainable Procurement Policy is supported by our Sustainable Timber Policy, Business and Ethical Code of Conduct and Modern Slavery Statement.



**Group Co-Chief Executives**

30/07/2022