



# Sustainable Procurement and Purchasing Policy

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Sourcing with Purpose for Sustainable Campus Development

TERMEZ STATE UNIVERSITY | TERMEZ/UZBEKISTAN



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## Introduction

As a public institution steadfastly committed to sustainability, academic excellence, and ethical governance, Termez State University (TerSU) recognizes the profound environmental, social, and economic repercussions of its procurement activities. The university's purchasing decisions exert influence not only on its internal operations but also on external supply chains, market behaviors, and the welfare of the community at large. Acknowledging this formidable responsibility, TerSU is instituting a Sustainable Procurement and Purchasing Policy (SPPP) that aligns its procurement practices with national priorities, global sustainability standards, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This policy epitomizes TerSU's broader commitment to sustainable development, as articulated in its Sustainability Strategy, Campus Operations Plan, and Institutional Governance Framework. Through this policy, TerSU aspires to ensure that all procurement decisions are predicated upon a comprehensive understanding of long-term value—encompassing environmental impact, ethical sourcing, local economic benefits, and lifecycle costs. The SPPP will govern procurement activities at all levels, from departmental acquisitions to capital infrastructure undertakings, while cultivating a culture of conscious consumption, accountability, and social responsibility.

The SPPP is conceived not merely as a compliance instrument but as an educational and transformational tool for the institution. It is designed to empower staff, faculty, and students to make informed purchasing decisions that contribute to ecological preservation, equitable labor practices, and sustainable innovation. In this light, procurement is conceived as both an



operational necessity and a strategic platform for furthering the university's mission as a sustainability leader within Uzbekistan and Central Asia.

## 2. Policy Rationale

Procurement processes constitute a critical lever through which universities can mitigate their environmental footprint and foster inclusive socio-economic development. At Termez State University, procurement is reframed not as a mere transactional function but as a strategic opportunity to engender systemic change. The rationale underpinning the adoption of a sustainable procurement policy is informed by several interrelated objectives.

First, the university aims to minimize the environmental impact associated with the acquisition of goods and services for teaching, research, administration, and infrastructure development. This entails decreasing energy consumption, waste generation, and carbon emissions linked to the production, transportation, utilization, and disposal of materials and equipment. By prioritizing environmentally preferable products, TerSU supports ecological resilience and resource conservation throughout its value chains.

Second, the policy is designed to uphold social responsibility by advocating for equitable labor practices, ethical sourcing, and supplier diversity. The university acknowledges that procurement choices possess the power to either reinforce or dismantle unjust labor systems, and thus endeavors to collaborate with vendors who exemplify transparency, adherence to human rights protections, and compliance with labor legislation. Preference will be accorded to suppliers who embrace equitable hiring practices, provide safe working conditions, and positively contribute to their local communities.



Third, this policy is integral to the university's commitment to institutional integrity and cost-effective governance. Sustainable procurement emphasizes lifecycle costing over transient price competitiveness, ensuring that total ownership costs—including maintenance, durability, environmental risks, and end-of-life disposal—are considered. This strategic approach promotes financial prudence while mitigating hidden social and environmental liabilities.

Ultimately, the SPPP empowers TerSU to lead by example within both local procurement ecosystems and broader public sector standards. By institutionalizing sustainability criteria into procurement practices, the university establishes a benchmark for ethical, transparent, and value-driven public expenditure—thereby fostering a culture of good governance, innovation, and long-term societal impact.

### 3. Guiding Principles

The execution of TerSU's Sustainable Procurement and Purchasing Policy is governed by a set of interrelated principles that resonate with the university's values, international sustainability norms, and national development strategies.

Environmental Responsibility is a foundational principle advocating for the selection of products and services with minimal environmental impact throughout their entire lifecycle. This consideration encompasses the use of renewable materials, energy efficiency, non-toxicity, minimal packaging, and recyclability. Preference will be granted to vendors that demonstrate sustainable production methodologies, resource conservation efforts, and emissions reduction strategies.



Social Equity and Ethical Sourcing prioritize labor rights, gender equity, and local empowerment in procurement processes. This commitment includes assurances that suppliers do not engage in child labor, forced labor, or discrimination. Where practicable, TerSU will prioritize procurement from local businesses, women-owned enterprises, social enterprises, and suppliers that actively promote inclusive employment practices.

Economic Sustainability necessitates procurement decisions that are economically viable in both the short and long term. This entails evaluating total cost of ownership rather than merely considering the lowest purchase price, taking into account factors such as durability, operational efficiency, maintenance requirements, and end-of-life costs. Sustainable procurement should likewise support innovation, entrepreneurship, and local economic development, particularly within the Surkhandaryo region.

Transparency and Accountability are crucial to maintaining integrity in procurement. All procurement processes must be executed in a manner that is transparent, auditable, and compliant with university regulations and national public procurement standards. Any deviations from sustainable procurement guidelines must be comprehensively documented and justified.

Education and Capacity Building represent a cross-cutting principle recognizing procurement as a vehicle for institutional learning. Staff, students, and faculty engaged in procurement decisions will receive relevant training and guidance on sustainable purchasing, accompanied by access to sustainability assessment tools and market intelligence regarding environmentally friendly alternatives.



## 4. Policy Objectives

The Sustainable Procurement and Purchasing Policy is strategically designed to achieve measurable outcomes in institutional sustainability performance, risk mitigation, and stakeholder engagement. The objectives of this policy are multidimensional and will evolve alongside the university's strategic development priorities.

The primary objective is to integrate sustainability criteria into all procurement activities undertaken by the university. This encompasses routine acquisitions of office supplies, laboratory equipment, IT infrastructure, construction materials, catering services, and event planning. Procurement guidelines will undergo revision to ensure that sustainability considerations are embedded at the decision-making stage.

Secondly, the policy aspires to augment institutional capacity for sustainable procurement through the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs), checklists, and tools designed to aid procurement officials in applying sustainability filters. These will be bolstered by capacity-building workshops, internal audits, and periodic performance evaluations to facilitate the assimilation of sustainable procurement practices into university operations.

The third objective is to cultivate supplier engagement and catalyze market transformation. TerSU will initiate engagement programs with vendors aimed at fostering alignment with sustainability benchmarks and encouraging continuous enhancement of their environmental and social performance standards. Sustainability clauses will be incorporated into supplier contracts, and vendor sustainability assessments will be implemented as part of the evaluation process.





An additional critical objective is to enhance accountability and monitoring through robust data collection and reporting systems. The university will track sustainability-related procurement metrics including the percentage of environmentally friendly products procured, emissions associated with logistics, and supplier compliance with sustainability criteria. These metrics will be publicly reported as an integral component of the university's annual sustainability reporting cycle.

Lastly, the policy seeks to instill a university-wide culture of conscious consumption and sustainability leadership. Procurement will not be restricted to administrative departments but will be embraced as a shared responsibility extending across faculties, student organizations, and research units. Through this comprehensive engagement, TerSU reinforces its identity as a living laboratory of sustainability and a model for transformative higher education in Uzbekistan.

## **5. Implementation Framework**

To effectively operationalize the Sustainable Procurement and Purchasing Policy, Termez State University has established a structured implementation framework that supports coordinated action across all administrative levels and academic units. This framework delineates clear roles and responsibilities, institutional support mechanisms, and integration with existing procurement systems.

The onus of primary oversight for implementation resides with the university's Procurement Department, in close collaboration with the Office of Sustainability and the Office of Finance and Planning. A designated Sustainability Procurement Coordinator will be appointed to spearhead policy execution, facilitate inter-departmental communication, and ensure





compliance with applicable national procurement laws and institutional regulations.

Procurement processes will be reconfigured to incorporate sustainability checkpoints at all critical junctures. During the planning phase, departments will be mandated to conduct a sustainability screening to evaluate the prospective environmental and social impacts of requested goods or services. For higher-value acquisitions and capital projects, a comprehensive sustainability impact assessment shall be obligatory, encompassing aspects such as product lifecycle, carbon footprint, and supplier practices.

Tender documents, bidding procedures, and evaluation criteria will be revised to reflect sustainability priorities. Bidders will be required to disclose their sustainability credentials and provide documentation demonstrating environmental compliance, labor standards, and community engagement practices. The assessment of bids will incorporate sustainability weighting, ensuring that suppliers are evaluated not only on price but also on their contributions to the university's broader sustainability objectives.

All procurement personnel will receive training on the revised procedures, equipped with updated procurement templates, supplier evaluation tools, and sustainability reference materials. This suite of resources will ensure uniformity across faculties and support informed decision-making throughout the procurement continuum.

## **6. Supplier Engagement and Partnership Development**

The efficacy of TerSU's sustainable procurement policy is inextricably linked to the establishment of productive relationships with suppliers who share the university's sustainability values and commitments. Accordingly, the



university will adopt a proactive approach to supplier engagement that emphasizes collaboration, capacity-building, and mutual accountability.

Suppliers will be familiarized with TerSU's sustainability requirements through orientation sessions, tender documentation, and ongoing communication. New vendors will undergo screening utilizing sustainability checklists, while existing suppliers will be invited to participate in sustainability assessments designed to benchmark their environmental and social performance. These assessments will be viewed not as punitive measures but as instruments for continuous improvement and collaborative learning.

The university will also encourage its suppliers to adopt internationally recognized sustainability standards, such as ISO 14001 for environmental management, ISO 26000 for social responsibility, and SA8000 for ethical labor practices. Preference will be granted to suppliers who demonstrate a commitment to enhancing their sustainability credentials or who possess a proven track record of innovation in sustainable production practices.

Where feasible, the university will prioritize partnerships with local and regional suppliers to stimulate inclusive economic growth and diminish transportation-related emissions. This is of particular importance within the context of the Surxondaryo region, where the university aims to serve as a catalyst for sustainable development. The procurement of locally manufactured goods and services not only supports job creation and fosters entrepreneurship but also reinforces the university's identity as an engaged civic institution.

Acknowledging the dynamic nature of supply chains, TerSU will maintain an open channel of dialogue with its vendors. Annual supplier forums will be convened to exchange best practices, acknowledge achievements, and identify



collaborative opportunities for innovation. The university regards its suppliers not merely as service providers but as integral partners in its sustainability journey.

## **7. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Continuous Improvement**

To assess the effectiveness of the Sustainable Procurement and Purchasing Policy and identify areas requiring refinement, TerSU will implement a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system anchored in evidence-based management. This system will facilitate the collection, analysis, and reporting of data pertaining to sustainability-related procurement performance indicators, thus enabling data-driven decision-making and institutional learning.

Key indicators will encompass the proportion of sustainable products and services procured, vendor compliance rates with sustainability criteria, lifecycle cost savings achieved through sustainable purchasing, and the frequency of sustainability training among procurement personnel. These metrics will be systematically tracked through TerSU's procurement management system and compiled into quarterly internal reviews, as well as the university's Annual Sustainability Report.

Periodic procurement audits will be conducted to assess compliance with the established sustainability guidelines and identify implementation gaps. These audits will entail documentation reviews, interviews with procurement personnel, and random sampling of purchase records. The outcomes will inform corrective action plans and guide capacity-building initiatives aimed at addressing identified deficiencies in the system.



Feedback from suppliers and internal stakeholders will be systematically collected through surveys and interviews. This feedback loop will ensure that the policy remains adaptable to evolving market conditions, user needs, and sustainability best practices. Insights gleaned from M&E activities will be translated into updated procurement protocols, revised training content, and policy amendments as warranted.

In pursuit of continuous improvement, the university will remain receptive to adopting new tools, standards, and innovations in sustainable procurement. Strategic alliances will be pursued with peer institutions, governmental entities, and international organizations to ensure that TerSU maintains alignment with global best practices and emerging trends.

## **8. Capacity-Building and Institutional Integration**

Achieving the full potential of sustainable procurement necessitates equipping the university community with the requisite knowledge, skills, and motivation to embed sustainability into every purchasing decision. Consequently, TerSU is resolutely committed to fostering a culture of sustainability literacy and responsibility among its staff, faculty, and students.

Comprehensive training programs will be meticulously developed for all personnel involved in procurement processes, encompassing faculty administrators, department heads, finance staff, and representatives from student organizations. These programs will cover the principles and practices of sustainable procurement, regulatory frameworks, environmental and social impact assessment methodologies, and supplier engagement techniques. Training modalities will combine in-person workshops, online modules, and hands-on simulations to enhance learning outcomes.



To institutionalize sustainability in decision-making, considerations related to sustainable procurement will be integrated into budgeting processes, capital project planning, curriculum development, and student activities. Faculties will be encouraged to leverage procurement processes as pedagogical tools, linking theoretical classroom knowledge with real-world applications. For instance, business students could evaluate supplier sustainability reports, while environmental science students could analyze the ecological implications of various product categories.

The university will also cultivate a network of sustainability champions across departments—individuals who serve as local advocates for responsible procurement practices and facilitate peer-to-peer learning. These champions will collaborate closely with the Sustainability Office and the Procurement Department in implementing policy initiatives, piloting new tools, and disseminating insights across the institution.

In alignment with its public engagement strategy, TerSU will proactively communicate its sustainable procurement policy and outcomes to external stakeholders. This commitment to transparency enhances the university's accountability, builds trust, and contributes to the evolution of a national discourse surrounding responsible public procurement. Through sustained investments in human capital, systems, and values, TerSU will ensure that sustainable procurement evolves from an administrative task to a strategic asset for institutional excellence and societal benefit.

## **9. Policy Governance and Institutional Oversight**

The successful implementation of the Sustainable Procurement and Purchasing Policy hinges on robust governance, institutional accountability, and the delineation of clear lines of responsibility. At Termez State University,



oversight of the policy will be entrusted to a cross-functional Sustainability Procurement Committee (SPC), convened under the joint authority of the Office of the Vice-Rector for Finance and Administration and the Office of Sustainability. This committee will serve as the principal body responsible for policy coordination, monitoring, capacity-building, and strategic planning related to sustainable procurement.

The committee will encompass representatives from the Procurement Department, academic faculties, student unions, facilities management, and legal and compliance offices. It will convene quarterly to review implementation progress, analyze procurement data, evaluate supplier partnerships, and address any compliance issues that may arise. The committee shall also possess the authority to propose amendments to the policy in response to internal audits, legislative changes, or the adoption of new sustainability standards at the national or international levels.

Procurement personnel and department-level purchasing coordinators are expected to uphold this policy in their daily operations, ensuring that all procurement activities align with TerSU's sustainability commitments. The SPC will provide operational guidance, decision-making tools, and technical support as needed. Performance evaluations and departmental reporting mechanisms will incorporate metrics linked to policy implementation, thereby further embedding sustainability into routine administrative and academic functions.

The Executive Council of TerSU will receive annual reports from the SPC that summarize achievements, challenges, and recommendations for future action. These reports will be made publicly accessible to ensure transparency, foster shared accountability, and enhance stakeholder engagement. Through this governance framework, the university ensures that sustainable procurement





remains a university-wide priority guided by collaborative leadership and an enduring commitment to continuous improvement.

## 10. Policy Review, Renewal, and Closing Statement

This policy shall serve as the definitive governing document of Termez State University, subject to periodic review and revision. A formal review process will be conducted every three years, led by the Sustainability Procurement Committee in conjunction with external advisors as warranted. Interim updates may also be instituted in response to significant regulatory, environmental, or market developments affecting procurement strategies.

During each review cycle, the committee will rigorously assess the policy's relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with evolving sustainability frameworks—such as national green procurement directives, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, ISO sustainability standards, and benchmarks for higher education sustainability. Stakeholder consultations, supplier feedback, audit findings, and performance data will provide critical inputs to ensure that the policy remains evidence-based, pragmatic, and responsive to institutional realities.

Any revisions to the policy shall receive formal approval from the university's Executive Council and be communicated to all relevant departments and stakeholders through internal circulars, public announcements, and updated documentation. Revised policies will be accompanied by updated training programs and implementation guidelines to ensure seamless integration into the university's procurement systems.

In conclusion, the Sustainable Procurement and Purchasing Policy reflects Termez State University's unwavering commitment to responsible governance,





environmental stewardship, social equity, and institutional excellence. It reaffirms the university's belief that each procurement decision represents an opportunity to cultivate a more sustainable and equitable future—both within the campus environment and across the broader ecosystem of suppliers, partners, and communities. By embedding sustainability into the core of its procurement practices, TerSU reinforces its leadership position as a national exemplar in transformative higher education and a proactive agent of positive systemic change.

This policy is intended to serve as a living framework—adaptable, transparent, and grounded in TerSU's enduring values of integrity, innovation, and public service.