



The importance of procurement within our environmental strategy

As a services provider, the environmental footprint of Solo Service Group’s operations are heavily reliant on our providers. For the provision of our service to be considered sustainable, this will require positive action from providers across our supply chain, this includes manufacturers, transportation, logistic services, equipment and specialist service providers e.g. pest control and window cleaning. Aims to mitigate the environmental footprint of our supply chain must not be limited to reducing associated emissions in isolation, as a user of large volumes of consumable products, consideration of the *Waste Hierarchy* must also play a fundamental role in both our commitments to provide a sustainable service and the commitments demanded within our procurement process.

Our strategy to consider sustainability within our procurement processes

As we are aiming to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2040, the role of sustainable procurement will be a fundamental one in progressing towards this target. For this ambitious target to be achieved, it is vital that all providers within our supply chain are also making efforts towards continually reducing and offsetting emissions.

As scope 3 emissions are out of our direct control, commitments towards periodic reductions in emissions within our procurement contracts will influence our procurement towards providers with a robust roadmap and associated procedures that will facilitate decarbonisation. If our target towards Net Zero emissions by 2040 is to be achieved, this will require the consideration of the ability of providers across each role within the supply chain to reduce emissions and to provide consumables with reduced emissions intensity to be a fundamental consideration within the procurement decision-making process.

Supplier and contractor ESG data collection tools will be evaluated with the intention of finding the best suited process and service provider for us to more accurately measure emissions and progress towards the environmental goals of our supply chain.

As we are aiming to reduce the waste generated by our services to as close to zero as possible, we will consider the circular economy principle, particularly in the procurement of goods. A circular economy seeks to retain the value in resources longer, primarily by extending the life of a product or the parts and materials used to make it. A circular economy can also be considered to prioritise the value gained from the function of goods and services rather than their raw material value.

This presents a challenge to build resilience, generate commercial opportunities and provide environmental benefits across a wide variety of industries. The Welsh Government’s Beyond Recycling strategy aims to make the circular economy a reality for Wales. By utilising the hierarchy of sustainable procurement suggested by WRAP Cymru, this encourages Solo Service Group to consider the circular economy principle in the procurement of goods and services.

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Wales Restorative Approaches Partnership (WRAP) is an innovative co-operative social enterprise and a not for profit community interest company, they work closely with businesses across Wales to encourage the implementation of circular economy solutions. WRAP present the following hierarchy that is designed to promote the implementation of circular economy solutions within sustainable procurement:

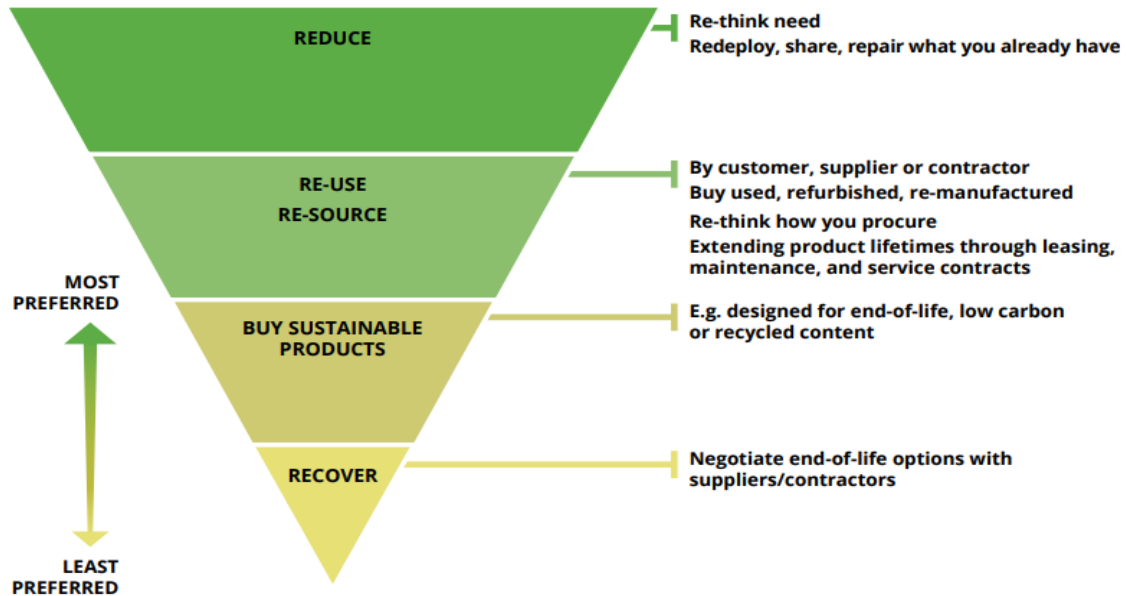


Figure 1: Hierarchy of sustainable procurement suggested by WRAP Cymru.

Evaluation of suppliers commitments towards sustainability can partially be gathered from the Solo Service Group supplier questionnaire. Within the questionnaire, potential suppliers and contractors are queried about their environmental procedures, commitment towards net zero, and publication of emissions among other environmental related issues.

Summary

There are two primary objectives of which the sustainability policy can be considered to support;

To encourage the procurement of goods and services that consider the circular economy principle- This applies most appropriately to the purchase of consumables and cleaning equipment. As many cleaning products are disposable and often packaged with/made of plastic, reducing the waste generated from the use of cleaning products through the use of innovative products can be considered a priority.

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To encourage the procurement of new suppliers that record and reduce emissions in addition to incentivising existing suppliers to progress with decarbonisation in line with net zero- Reduction of scope 3 emissions related to our supply chain can only begin if our suppliers record and reduce their emissions. By considering how different suppliers/contractors can help us progress towards net zero, this will incentivise the awarding of contracts to suppliers that can match our environmental commitments. An area where recording and reduction in supply chain emissions should be prioritised has been identified as within transportation and logistics.

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