

Sustainable Procurement and Purchasing Policy

(Bukhara State University, 2024–2028)

1. Purpose

In alignment with the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action), Bukhara State University (BSU) establishes this **Sustainable Procurement and Purchasing Policy**.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all procurement activities support **environmental protection, social responsibility, and economic efficiency**, while contributing to long-term institutional sustainability.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All university departments and faculties
- All staff involved in purchasing and procurement decisions
- All suppliers, contractors, and service providers

It covers the procurement of:

- Goods (equipment, office supplies, laboratory materials)
- Services (maintenance, catering, cleaning, IT services)
- Works (construction and infrastructure projects)

3. Guiding Principles

BSU procurement shall be guided by the following principles:

- **Sustainability Integration:** Environmental and social criteria are embedded in all procurement decisions
- **Life-Cycle Thinking:** Evaluation of total environmental and economic impact over the product life cycle
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Open, fair, and ethical procurement processes
- **Local and Inclusive Development:** Support for local suppliers and small enterprises
- **Value for Money:** Balancing cost, quality, and sustainability outcomes

4. Environmental Criteria

To support environmental sustainability, BSU commits to:

4.1 Resource Efficiency

- Prioritize energy-efficient and water-saving products
- Purchase equipment with recognized efficiency standards

4.2 Waste Reduction

- Prefer reusable, recyclable, or biodegradable materials
- Minimize single-use plastics and packaging

4.3 Low-Carbon Procurement

- Favor products and services with lower carbon footprints
- Encourage suppliers to adopt climate-friendly practices

4.4 Sustainable Infrastructure

- Apply green building standards in construction projects
- Use environmentally friendly materials

5. Social Responsibility Criteria

BSU requires that all suppliers:

- Comply with **labor laws and fair working conditions**
- Ensure **non-discrimination and gender equality**
- Prohibit child labor and forced labor
- Maintain safe and healthy working environments

Preference will be given to suppliers who demonstrate:

- Corporate social responsibility (CSR) practices
- Community engagement
- Ethical business conduct

6. Economic and Innovation Criteria

- Support **local and regional suppliers** where feasible
- Encourage procurement from **innovative and sustainable businesses**
- Promote long-term partnerships that foster **research and innovation**
- Consider total cost of ownership rather than lowest upfront cost

7. Supplier Selection and Evaluation

7.1 pre-qualification

Suppliers must:

- Meet legal and regulatory requirements
- Provide sustainability-related documentation where applicable

7.2 Evaluation Criteria

Tenders will be assessed based on:

- Price and quality
- Environmental performance
- Social responsibility standards
- Innovation and sustainability value

7.3 Supplier Code of Conduct

All suppliers must adhere to a **BSU Supplier Code of Conduct**, aligned with the United Nations SDGs.

8. Sustainable Purchasing Practices

- Centralized procurement guidelines for sustainability compliance
- Green procurement checklists for staff
- Digital procurement systems to reduce paper use
- Preference for certified sustainable products (where available)

9. Governance and Responsibilities

University Administration:

- Approve and oversee policy implementation

Procurement Department:

- Integrate sustainability criteria into procurement processes
- Train staff on sustainable purchasing practices

Faculties and Units:

- Apply sustainability principles in purchasing decisions

10. Monitoring and Reporting

- Annual review of procurement activities
- Key indicators:
 - Percentage of sustainable purchases
 - Reduction in waste and emissions
 - Share of local suppliers engaged
- Inclusion in the university's sustainability report

11. Capacity Building

- Regular training for staff on sustainable procurement
- Awareness programs for suppliers
- Development of practical tools and guidelines

12. Continuous Improvement

- Periodic revision of procurement standards
- Adoption of international best practices
- Integration of new technologies and innovations

13. Expected Outcomes

- Reduced environmental impact of university operations
- Promotion of ethical and responsible supply chains
- Strengthened local economy and innovation ecosystem
- Enhanced alignment with the United Nations SDGs