

BVA procurement policy

Who we are

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is the national representative body for the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom. With over 19,000 members, our primary aim is to represent, support and champion the interests of the United Kingdom's veterinary profession. We, therefore, take a keen interest in all issues affecting the profession, including animal health and welfare, public health, regulatory issues and employment matters and the wellbeing of the profession.

Our commitment

At BVA, we are striving to reduce our impact on the environment and to demonstrate leadership within the veterinary profession and in representing the profession in wider society.

By adopting this green procurement policy, we will act in accordance with the waste hierarchy, avoiding unnecessary procurement of products and services where possible.

Implementation

We are committed to working with our staff, members, suppliers, contractors, colleagues, and neighbours to achieve the following objectives:

- eliminating or reducing the procurement of products or services that have the most harmful environmental impact.
- prioritising the procurement of products and services by spend or volume and environmental impact.
- procuring reused, refurbished, remanufactured and recycled-content products when possible.
- purchasing greener products available through existing suppliers, such as energy saving office equipment, biodegradable cleaning products, recycled content/FSC stationery and where appropriate, use reusable and refillable products.
- purchasing organic and/or fair-trade products where practicable.
- supporting local remanufacturing efforts by purchasing at least a portion of recycled/upcycled products from local organisations where they exist.
- actively encouraging suppliers to stock products and services that have minimum environmental impact and reduce the packaging in which products are supplied.
- asking suppliers to provide clear information about the processes and materials used in their manufacturing processes, identifying any processed harmful to the environment and seek suppliers that are working towards the phase out of such practices.

Checklist

The following checklist will be used to make procurement decisions, while also taking into account other considerations such as value for money:

Resource use and recyclability

- does production/extraction of the product cause ecological damage, such as loss of habitats or damage to threatened species?
- is this a remanufactured product?

- can the product be re-used, refilled, recharged, or reconditioned to extend its life?
- can the item be easily upgraded by adding or replacing a part?
- does the product have a recycled content?
- is the product accredited with a recognized environmental standard?
- can the product be recycled easily?

Hazardous content

- is the product or are its components hazardous to humans and/or the wider environment?
- are there any non-hazardous alternatives available?
- are technical data sheets available?

Energy use

- what is the energy efficiency of the items and how does it compare against alternatives?
- does the item have energy consumption data for all operation modes?

Packaging

- can product packaging be reduced or eliminated?
- is the packaging made of recycled material(s)?
- can packaging be re-used, recycled, or returned?

Transportation

- is the product locally manufactured and/or locally supplied?
- does the supplier have a green transport plan for their operations?

Catering

- does the supplier or service providers source fresh, local and in season products?
- do they use reusable and/or recycled packaging and/or crockery and cutlery?
- do they provide vegetarian/vegan food choices and consider specific dietary requirements?
- do they prioritise the use of organic and/or fair-trade products?
- do they source from independent, local sources?

Supplier environmental reporting

- does the supplier have a company environmental management system?
- does the supplier report on their environmental performance against set targets?
- does the supplier have a current, in-date environmental accreditation?

Social impact

- is the product made by an organization which supports quality working conditions, worker health and safety and/or community prosperity?
- does the product, or its manufacturer/supplier have any ethical certification labels – such as Fair Trade, Ethical Trading Initiative or similar?


Responsibility

We will continue to improve our procurement policy through annual reviews and updates, taking into account any changes within legislation, our organisation, and other factors. We will share this policy with all our employees and make sure they are provided with regular updates in order to increase awareness of procurement activities.

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The facilities team have designated responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of this policy. BVA will make this policy available when requested to interested parties including members of the public, including making a copy available on BVA's website. Any questions or suggestions can be sent to greengroup@bva.co.uk

Signed:  Date: 23rd August 2024
BVA Chief Executive