



**MAYO.IE**

# **COMHAIRLE CONTAE MHAIGH EO GREEN PROCUREMENT POLICY**



## **Mayo's Green / Sustainable Procurement Policy**

This policy is produced to complement Mayo County Council's Corporate Procurement Plan and describes the Council's commitment to sustainability through its procurement principles.

Sustainability can be described as a state in which activities provide a good quality of life for all through a just and healthy society, without harming the environmental system that enables our existence.

### **What is Green Public Procurement (GPP)**

GPP is defined as: "A process whereby public and semi-public authorities meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities by choosing solutions that have a reduced impact on the environment throughout their life-cycle, as compared to alternative products/solutions."

### **Climate Action Plan at National Level – Office of Government Procurement (OGP)**

The Climate Action Plan is the Government's plan to ensure Ireland reaches the 2030 emissions targets, putting us on a trajectory to be net zero emissions by 2050. The Government has agreed that there will be a phased introduction of green criteria targeting priority products and services as well as building appropriate green criteria into OGP frameworks and providing support and guidance to procurers.

The Climate Action Plan will require every public body to have a climate mandate. A key element of such a mandate will be using public procurement to deliver change. This demonstrates the Government's priority in promoting Green Public Procurement by asking Departments and Offices to consider the inclusion of green criteria in their procurements in the context of its wider commitments under the Climate Action Plan.

#### **Specifically, the Circular:**

- Instructs Departments to consider including green criteria in public procurement processes in the following circumstances where:
  - clearly defined, quantifiable, verifiable and measurable criteria have been developed by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and are relevant to the specific procurement process; and
  - the cost can be met within a Department's existing budget without impacting on service delivery.
- Informs Departments that the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) will support the implementation process to ensure that Green Public Procurement becomes part of the mainstream public procurement process
- Requires Departments to incorporate relevant green procurement measures into their planning and reporting cycles.
- Highlights the possibilities for Departments to deliver wider social and environmental aims through public procurement. In this regard, public bodies are encouraged to engage with the OGP to use frameworks which include relevant social and environmental considerations.



- Draws the attention of Departments to the cross-departmental Social Considerations Advisory Group which aims to promote and facilitate the incorporation of social considerations, including environmental considerations, into public procurement projects.

<https://ogp.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/DPER-Circular-20-2019.pdf>

## **Mayo County Council Corporate Procurement Plan 2021-2023**

Nationally, the publication of Green Tenders, An Action Plan on Green Procurement and the National Framework for the Sustainable Development in Ireland – Our Sustainable Future, together establish a clear vision and place for green public procurement (GPP) within future Irish Government arrangements. The EPA have built on this with the publication of Green Procurement – Guidance for the public sector.

By procuring in a sustainable way the Council aims to shift spending away from goods, services and works that negatively impact on the environment and society, towards products that are more environmentally sound and socially beneficial.

This objective will be progressed through the following actions:

- Ensure the Council's procurement policy take account of environmental considerations
- Provision for inclusion of social or environmental characteristics of goods, services or works being procured by the Council

Mayo County Council will engage with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment on the GPP4Growth project. The Procurement & Efficiency Review team will engage with the Council Climate Ambassador Scheme and the Council Climate Action Steering Group to promote the use of green procurement and examine opportunities for including green procurement criteria in tenders.

The Section will also examine the use of social clauses in procurement contracts. A Social Clause is a legal requirement within a procurement contract which stipulates that the contract must provide added social value (this can also be known as a Community Benefit Clause).

### **Climate Ready Mayo – Mayo County Council**

The Climate Ready Mayo - Climate Adaptation Strategy, September 2019 highlights five main themes; Governance, Critical Buildings & Infrastructure, Natural and Cultural Capital, Water Resource and Flood Risk Management and Community Services. Procurement & Finance are mentioned within the Governance area of the Adaptation Strategy Team of Mayo County Council, specifically action no 7, has the Finance section as the Mayo County Council lead on capturing costs of Climate Events.

### **Mayo County Councils Climate Action Charter**

Contained within the signed Mayo County Council Climate Action Charter are procurement points as follows:

- Ask suppliers as part of the procurement process to provide information on their carbon footprint and on the sustainability practices and steps they plan to reduce its impact
- Implement green public procurement strategy and procedures across all business areas.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

The Sustainable Development Goals or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs were set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030.

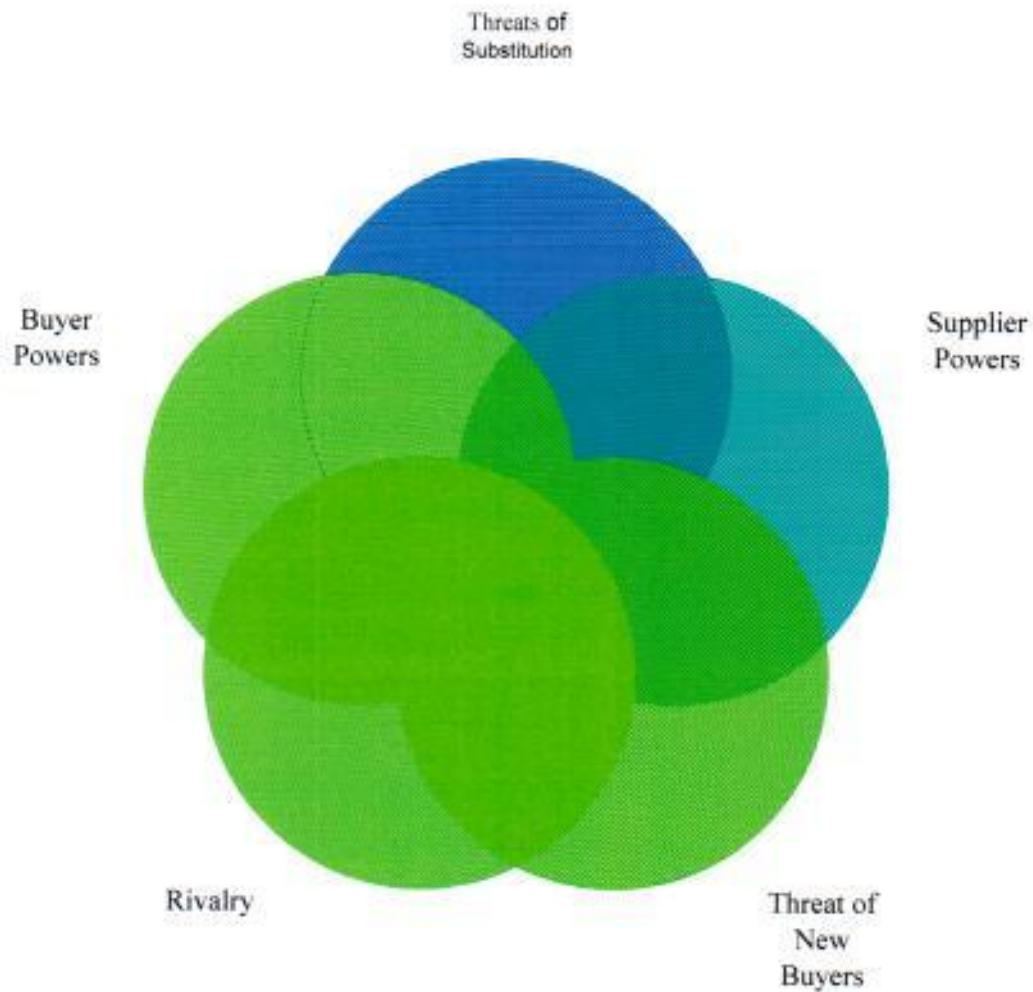
<https://www.bitc.ie/join-the-network/sustainable-development-goals>

The local authority sector has agreed ambitious goals to deliver a thriving and united county in which all residents can share in its success. <https://www.caro.ie/local-authority-climate-action/vision-mission/goals-objectives>

### **Porters Five Forces**

Porter's five forces helps to identify where power lies in a business / procurement situation. This is useful both in understanding the strength of an organisation's current competitive position, and the strength of a position that an organisation may look to move into. Porter's five forces can be used from a strategic aspect to understand whether new products or services are potentially profitable. By understanding where power lies, the theory can also be used to identify areas of strength, to improve weaknesses and to avoid mistakes.





### **Threat of substitution.**

Where close substitute products exist in a market, it increases the likelihood of customers switching to alternatives in response to price increases.

- This reduces both the power of suppliers and the attractiveness of the market.

### **Buyer Powers.**

This is driven by: -

- the number of buyers in the market
- the importance of each individual buyer to the organisation
- the cost to the buyer of switching from one supplier to another

### **Competitive rivalry**

The key driver is the number and capability of competitors in the market.

- Many competitors, offering undifferentiated products and services, will reduce market attractiveness.

### **Supplier Powers.**

This is driven by: -

- the number of suppliers of each essential input
- the uniqueness of their product or service
- the relative size and strength of the supplier
- the cost of switching from one supplier to another

### **Threat of new entry**

- Profitable markets attract new entrants, which erodes profitability.
- Unless incumbents have strong and durable barriers to entry, for example, patents, economies of scale, capital requirements or government policies, then profitability will decline to a competitive rate.

### **Mayo County Council**

The Green Procurement Policy is a public statement of Mayo County Council's commitment to environmental, economic and socially sustainable procurement. Sustainable and Green Procurement should be part of the process of managing business risk. In introducing environmental and social criteria to the process of acquiring goods and services, the Council needs to integrate these issues as closely as possible into routine business practice. Sustainable development should be another aspect of commercial relationships. Environmental & social factors can then be fully integrated into day-to-day procurement operations.

Effective sustainable procurement requires that 'repeat purchases' should be challenged and questioned. Mayo County Council may apply the principles of the familiar waste hierarchy, namely: eliminate, reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose ('end-of-life management'). Technical specifiers need to appreciate the environmental characteristics and social impacts of the products, works and services bought. This knowledge is built up from several sources including:

- Environmental and social expertise within the authority
- Information provided by suppliers and contractors
- External sources of environmental information



## Promoting Green / Sustainable Procurement

The Council will endeavour to: -

- Only purchase goods and services that reflect best practice specifications or standards for environmental and economic or social sustainability.
- Consider the whole life cost of products when we seek to select a supplier (Energy efficient products for example often have an increased capital cost that is more than offset over time by the reduced operational cost)
- Never buy products that are harmful to the environment if a less damaging alternative is available.
- Try to specify goods, products and materials that cause minimum damage to the environment including the impact of their manufacture, distribution, use & disposal.
- Aim to promote sustainability within all our contract and tendering documentation and promote awareness amongst our members and officers.
- Continually review our purchasing of goods and services through our contract specifications, with the intention of decreasing our environmental impact and increasing our positive impacts on society, the local economy and producer.
- Draw the Green Sustainable Procurement Policy to the attention of key suppliers and communicate it as widely as is practicable to the potential supply market.
- Work with key suppliers to improve their overall environmental performance, encouraging them to reduce the environmental impacts of their products and processes, and develop environmentally friendly products where possible.

Mayo County Council will in line with the Climate Action Charter for local authorities 2019 and with the support of Central Government implement green procurement strategy and procedure across all business areas. A link is attached hereunder:



Signed Climate  
Action Charter.pdf

## Conclusion

The environment within which Mayo's economy operates is undergoing significant change. We need a refreshed strategic approach to the Council's procurement activity, to help the county adapt to new economic relationships emerging post-Brexit, to transition to a low carbon economy, and to manage the impacts and opportunities arising from technological change.

Importantly, with the well-documented pressure on public finances, we also need to continue to ensure we are securing Best Value by purchasing only what we need to and managing our suppliers effectively through robust contract management. This strategy takes account of that wider context, and recent developments in the local and national policy framework, that now more clearly recognize the important role that public sector procurement has in assisting the Council to deliver its key outcomes. Backed by a strong focus on compliance with the regulatory framework, and the Council's internal controls, this strategy will help ensure the Council's purchasing activity supports sustainable growth and protects our environment, while also confronting the challenges that Mayo is facing.

Recommended By: - *Th. Gillen*  
Director of Services

Approved By: - *Pete Dugg*  
Interim Chief Executive

Date: - 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021