

# Sustainability in Action Spotlight

## Procurement



The Procurement team at Trent University has been a long-time leader in sustainable practices, with a strong foundation in sustainable purchasing dating back to 1995. Procurement has continuously advanced sustainable procurement initiatives, helping to shape Trent's commitment to environmental stewardship and ethical sourcing.

## Operationalizing Sustainability

- Leading Sustainable Procurement: Prioritizing energy efficiency, recyclability, and durability, the team minimizes environmental impacts across campus operations by applying the Policy on Environmentally Sustainable Procurement.
- Ethical Procurement: Ensuring ethical labor conditions through Trent's Fair Trade Apparel policy and reporting annually to Public Safety Canada on measures to prevent forced and child labor in supply chains.
- Extending Our Values to Suppliers: Implemented Supplier Code of Conduct Policy to uphold international labour standards, promote supplier diversity, and ensure responsible business practices that support human rights and environmental sustainability across supply chains.
- Sector Leadership & Collaboration: Contributed to OUPPMA sustainability working group initiatives, participated in the 2024 Canadian ECPAR Barometer Survey, and partnered with the Sustainability Office to advance sustainable procurement, logistics, and data management.
- Training & Education: Provided procurement staff with training in sustainable practice, embedding sustainability in operations and working to integrate sector-wide best practices.

## Purchasing

product delivery quality  
quotation freight business

## Trent Green

Trent's Environmental Procurement Policy, 1995 positioned the university as an early leader in sustainable purchasing. Over time, our approach has evolved to mandate sustainability scoring in purchasing decisions, ensuring Trent remains at the forefront of sustainable procurement practices by embedding clear, measurable criteria that align operations with long-term sustainability goals.

## Actionable Insights

Procurement's efforts demonstrate how aligning strategically with sustainability drives impactful outcomes. Here are key concepts to inspire your team:

- Integrate Sustainability in Procurement: Work with Procurement Services to adopt protocols that incorporate sustainability criteria regarding purchasing decisions.
- Support Ethical Sourcing: Incorporate Fair Trade and ethical sourcing business practices to ensure responsible production standards.
- Consider Supply Chain Impacts: Seek vendors whose efforts to reduce environmental impacts align with and extend our ability to create deep, meaningful change.
- Collaborate Across Departments: Work closely with departments such as Procurement Services and the Sustainability Office to uncover the unique opportunities for your section to support Trent's sustainability goals.
- Educate Staff on Sustainable Practices: Consider the specific impacts of your section and educate staff on opportunities to incorporate sustainable practice.

Trent Sustainability Office

