

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY

Termez University of Economics and Service (TUES)

1. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

1.1 This Policy and its related procedures apply to all academic and administrative staff of Termez University of Economics and Service, as well as to students where relevant, external suppliers, contractors, service providers, consultants, and other stakeholders engaged in the provision, purchase, management, or use of goods, works, and services connected to the University's activities. The Policy is intended to guide procurement-related decisions across the institution and to ensure that purchasing practices are consistent with the University's broader commitments to responsible governance, operational efficiency, sustainability, and long-term institutional development.

1.2 This Policy relates to the sustainable procurement of goods, services, and works that may have economic, environmental, and social impacts either within the physical boundaries of the University or beyond them through the wider supply chain. TUES recognizes that procurement decisions influence not only financial performance, but also energy use, resource consumption, waste generation, transport impacts, labour conditions, supplier behavior, and the quality of the environment in which the University community studies and works. For this reason, procurement shall not be understood as a purely transactional or price-based function; it is also an important instrument through which the University can contribute to sustainable development and responsible institutional practice.

1.3 TUES is committed to managing its operations, facilities, and institutional growth in a way that supports continuous improvement in environmental performance, responsible use of resources, and the integration of sustainability principles into managerial decision-making. Procurement is one of the areas where these commitments can be translated into practical and measurable action. The University will therefore seek to embed sustainability considerations into the procurement cycle through planning, specification, tendering, evaluation, contract management, and review, while ensuring that procurement remains fair, transparent, and aligned with institutional priorities.

1.4 This Policy forms part of the University's contribution to broader sustainable development objectives, including the promotion of resource efficiency, reduction of unnecessary environmental impact, support for ethical and responsible supply chains, and encouragement of more sustainable patterns of consumption within higher education. In this respect, sustainable procurement is understood as a necessary element of TUES's institutional responsibility to students, staff, partners, and the wider community.

2. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Overall responsibility for the implementation, coordination, and monitoring of this Policy shall rest with the University body or senior management structure responsible for sustainability, administration, and operational governance. Day-to-day responsibility for integrating sustainable procurement requirements into purchasing processes shall normally rest with the unit responsible for procurement, finance, or administrative services, working in coordination with the University's sustainability-related structures and relevant decision-makers.

2.2 Responsibility for the effective implementation of this Policy is shared across the institution. Senior leaders are expected to provide direction and support for the integration of

sustainability into procurement practice. Budget holders, heads of departments, and managers responsible for purchasing must ensure that procurement decisions under their authority take into account relevant environmental and social considerations in a proportionate and documented manner. Staff engaged in purchasing or contract oversight must apply this Policy in practice, while students and other members of the University community are encouraged to adopt behaviors that support responsible resource use and sustainable institutional operations.

2.3 External suppliers, contractors, and service providers working with TUES are also expected to act in a manner consistent with the principles of this Policy. The University will seek to communicate its expectations clearly and to encourage suppliers to demonstrate responsible environmental, social, and ethical standards in the delivery of goods and services.

3. OTHER TUES DOCUMENTS

3.1 This Policy should be read in conjunction with other University documents that support responsible governance, sustainability, procurement integrity, and institutional planning. These documents may include the University's Strategic Development Plan, Sustainability Policy, Risk Management Policy, Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy, Financial Regulations, Procurement Procedures, Asset Management Procedures, Energy or Resource Management guidelines, waste-related procedures, and other relevant internal regulations adopted by the University.

3.2 The relationship between this Policy and other institutional documents is important because sustainable procurement does not operate in isolation. Procurement choices affect energy consumption, waste generation, infrastructure use, budget efficiency, supplier risk, reputational exposure, and social responsibility outcomes. For that reason, implementation of this Policy should be aligned with the wider internal framework through which TUES governs resources, contracts, facilities, and sustainability-related commitments.

3.3 Where more detailed procedures, manuals, or operational instructions exist, those documents shall support the implementation of this Policy and should be interpreted consistently with its principles. In the event of inconsistency, the University shall clarify the applicable requirement through the appropriate governance or administrative channel.

Policy

4. OVERVIEW

4.1 TUES recognizes that its institutional activities generate environmental, social, and economic impacts at local, regional, and wider levels. As a university serving students, staff, employers, and communities, it has a responsibility not only to deliver education and research, but also to manage its operational footprint responsibly. The University therefore acknowledges that procurement decisions are among the most significant ways in which institutional values are translated into practice, since the purchase of goods, services, equipment, materials, and works affects resource use, emissions, waste, supplier conduct, and the life-cycle impacts of institutional consumption.

4.2 The University further recognizes that procurement can be one of the largest indirect sources of environmental and social impact associated with institutional activity. While such impacts are not always easy to quantify in full, it is clear that the way the University spends its financial resources influences the durability of assets, the efficiency of resource use, the sustainability of infrastructure, the level of waste produced, and the quality of the supply chains on which the institution depends. Sustainable procurement is therefore not an optional add-on, but

a strategic and operational necessity for a University that aims to strengthen institutional responsibility and resilience.

4.3 In the context of TUES, sustainable procurement means that procurement decisions should aim to balance value for money with broader considerations of environmental stewardship, ethical conduct, long-term efficiency, and social responsibility. It requires the University to consider not only whether a purchase meets an immediate need, but also whether the purchase is necessary, whether it can be specified more sustainably, whether it has avoidable negative impacts, and whether suppliers can demonstrate acceptable standards of performance and integrity.

5. AIMS

5.1 The first aim of this Policy is to ensure that sustainable procurement principles are considered throughout the full procurement cycle, beginning with the initial question of whether a good, service, or work is actually needed and continuing through specification, tendering, supplier selection, contract management, use, maintenance, and end-of-life review. The University seeks to make procurement more reflective, more accountable, and more consistent with long-term institutional interests.

5.2 A second aim is to promote a life-cycle perspective in procurement decision-making. TUES recognizes that the lowest initial price does not always represent the best long-term outcome. A purchase may appear inexpensive at the point of acquisition but later result in higher energy use, higher maintenance costs, lower durability, greater waste, or increased social and environmental harm. The University therefore aims to encourage consideration of the broader life-cycle consequences of purchasing decisions wherever this is practical and proportionate.

5.3 A further aim is to ensure that outsourced and externally delivered goods and services are subject, as far as reasonably possible, to sustainability expectations that reflect the values and standards of the University. TUES understands that institutional responsibility extends beyond direct internal operations and that procurement-related impacts often occur through suppliers, contractors, logistics systems, and production chains outside the campus itself.

5.4 The University also aims to strengthen institutional awareness of the relationship between procurement and sustainable development. This includes encouraging better understanding of how procurement decisions relate to resource efficiency, human wellbeing, labour practices, environmental protection, fair competition, and the responsible use of public and private institutional funds.

6. OBJECTIVES

6.1 TUES is committed to making procurement decisions on the basis of a balanced consideration of economic, environmental, and social factors so that value for money is understood in a broader and more responsible sense. The University does not interpret value solely as short-term cost reduction, but as the achievement of appropriate quality, functionality, reliability, durability, and responsible impact over time.

6.2 The University is committed to complying, at a minimum, with all applicable internal financial regulations, procurement rules, legal obligations, and relevant environmental and social requirements. In addition, the University seeks to ensure that procurement processes are conducted transparently and fairly, and that suppliers are encouraged to engage openly and responsibly in dialogue, documentation, and delivery.

6.3 TUES is committed to supporting approaches that contribute to more efficient resource use and reduced waste. Where feasible, the University will seek procurement solutions that support durability, repairability, reusability, lower material intensity, recycled content, or other principles associated with responsible consumption and the circular use of resources.

6.4 The University is committed to applying a risk-based approach to procurement in order to identify and reduce the potential environmental, ethical, operational, and reputational impacts associated with purchased goods, services, and works. Some categories of procurement may involve relatively low sustainability risk, while others may require closer review because of their scale, technical nature, resource intensity, supply-chain sensitivity, or waste implications.

6.5 Budget holders and other responsible decision-makers are expected to consider the sustainability implications of significant procurement decisions and, where necessary, seek advice from the relevant procurement, finance, or sustainability-related units of the University. This expectation is intended to improve the quality of procurement decisions and support consistent institutional practice.

6.6 For higher-value or higher-impact goods, works, and services, the University should, where practicable, apply an auditable assessment approach that allows relevant environmental and social issues to be identified before final procurement decisions are made. The exact threshold and form of such assessment may be determined through internal procedures, but the principle is that more significant procurements deserve a more structured and documented sustainability review.

6.7 TUES aims to consider whole-life cost where appropriate. This includes not only the initial purchase price, but also installation, operation, maintenance, energy and water use, repair, replacement cycles, disposal, and any associated environmental or social consequences that may affect the real cost and institutional value of the purchase over time.

6.8 The University intends that tender evaluations, where appropriate, should include sustainability-related criteria in a visible and proportionate way. This does not mean that all procurements must be assessed identically, but it does mean that procurement processes should allow environmental, ethical, and social performance to be considered where these factors are relevant to the subject matter of the purchase.

6.9 Where equipment, technologies, or infrastructure have significant implications for energy consumption or resource use, the University will seek to take performance efficiency into account in procurement evaluation. In doing so, TUES aims to avoid procurement choices that create unnecessarily high operating costs or long-term environmental burdens.

6.10 The University will, where feasible and relevant, consider procurement choices that support more sustainable energy use and improved environmental performance, including options that reduce emissions, improve efficiency, or support the broader sustainability objectives of the institution.

6.11 TUES seeks, where practical, to purchase goods that contain less harmful materials, generate less waste, have greater durability, include recycled or responsibly sourced content, or meet recognized environmental or quality standards. This objective reflects the University's intention to make procurement decisions that reduce negative impacts across the life cycle of the product.

6.12 The University also aims to procure goods and services in ways that minimize unnecessary transport impacts, avoid excessive packaging, reduce waste generation, and support

more efficient delivery and use. These considerations are particularly relevant where routine or large-volume purchases are involved.

6.13 TUES is committed to fairness and impartiality in procurement decision-making. All suppliers should have an appropriate opportunity to compete, and procurement processes should be designed to avoid favoritism, hidden bias, or arbitrary exclusion. In particular, the University recognizes the importance of maintaining fair and transparent opportunities for qualified suppliers, including small and medium-sized enterprises where appropriate.

6.14 The University seeks to work with reputable suppliers who demonstrate acceptable ethical, legal, and professional standards in their operations and supply chains. Where relevant, TUES may seek assurance that suppliers understand their environmental and social responsibilities, comply with applicable requirements, and do not rely on practices that would undermine the values of the University.

6.15 In areas such as travel, events, catering, IT, facilities, and construction-related procurement, the University will seek to strengthen coordination between operational needs and sustainability considerations so that procurement decisions support more responsible institutional practice rather than creating avoidable inefficiencies or environmental burdens.

6.16 TUES is committed to improving monitoring and evaluation of sustainable procurement activity over time. The University recognizes that policy commitments become meaningful only when implementation can be reviewed, lessons can be identified, and performance can be improved. Appropriate data collection, internal reporting, and periodic review should therefore form part of implementation.

6.17 The University also intends to provide guidance, awareness, and where relevant training so that staff involved in procurement and budget decisions are better equipped to incorporate sustainable purchasing principles into their work. Institutional culture is strengthened when sustainability is understood not as a separate specialist issue, but as part of normal professional decision-making.

6.18 TUES aims to work constructively with suppliers to improve the environmental and social performance of the goods and services it purchases. The University recognizes that procurement can be a channel for positive influence and that long-term improvements are more likely where expectations are communicated clearly and where suppliers are encouraged to strengthen their own practices.

6.19 The University also values learning from wider good practice. Where appropriate, TUES may engage with peer institutions, public bodies, professional networks, and relevant external guidance in order to improve its sustainable procurement approaches and adapt emerging good practice to its own context.

6.20 Finally, the University is committed to communicating this Policy to the University community and relevant external stakeholders so that awareness is raised and behavior is influenced in ways that reduce negative impacts and support more responsible procurement outcomes.

7. REVIEW

7.1 TUES shall review this Policy periodically in order to ensure that it remains relevant to the University's operational context, sustainability priorities, governance arrangements, and procurement practices. Review should take account of implementation experience, institutional

needs, developments in good practice, and any changes in the University's wider sustainability and strategic framework.

7.2 The University intends that review of this Policy should support continual improvement. Where gaps, implementation challenges, or emerging priorities are identified, corrective and preventive actions should be considered so that sustainable procurement practice becomes progressively more consistent, measurable, and effective over time.

8. APPENDICES

8.1 At the time of approval, this Policy may be issued without appendices. However, the University may in future adopt supporting appendices, guidance notes, assessment templates, supplier expectations, or procedural annexes where these are considered necessary to strengthen implementation and ensure greater clarity in operational practice.

9. SIGNATURE

9.1 This Policy shall become effective upon formal approval by the authorized University body and signature by the designated senior officer responsible for institutional administration, operations, or governance. The signed version shall constitute the official controlled document of Termez University of Economics and Service.

Rector



A.Absamatov