

Sustainable Sourcing

Aim

To ensure that Co-operative Futures' sourcing is as sustainable¹ as is reasonably possible.

Objectives

- Consider co-operatives and social enterprises first as suppliers².
- Consider the broader sustainability of purchasing decisions.

Implementation Strategy

Thinking about sustainability when sourcing

A sustainable policy asks that when sourcing we try to minimise the negative impacts of our work by balancing environmental, social and economic concerns. This is not designed as a prescriptive policy. The most important strategy in sustainability is the application of a reasonable amount of thought. When making sourcing decisions you should make reasonable efforts to research sourcing options, consult colleagues and consider their input.

Paying a premium for sustainability

Where reasonable, a premium of 20% in total may be paid for supplies demonstrating high standards of sustainability. The 20% maximum may be subdivided as shown below;

- A premium of up to 10% on cost may be acceptable to source supplies from a Co-operative or Social Enterprise.
- A premium of up to 10% on cost may be acceptable to source from suppliers demonstrating high standards of sustainability
- A premium of up to 10% on cost may be acceptable to source supplies (products) demonstrating high standards of sustainability

Reporting and Monitoring

In order to ensure that this policy does not collapse under the strain of its own bureaucracy the reporting requirement is to share information about notable wins, describing the basis of the decision, the likely spend and the additional cost. The Directors will review the evidence and report on progress at each Board Meeting, where improvement targets may be considered.

This policy is to be implemented with reference to the Co-operative Futures Environmental Policy and does not substitute for it.

This policy has to be implemented with due regard to Co-operative

Futures financial and operational viability.

¹ A sustainable policy tries to minimise a balance of negative environmental, social and economic impacts.

² At Co-operative Futures we consider co-operatives and social enterprises to be particularly sustainable