



www.sharedvaluesolutions.com

Sustainable & Ethical Purchasing Policy

Background

Shared Value Solutions Ltd. policies provide direction for our environmental, economic and social performance, and our approach to “creating shared value”. Our policies guide our business decisions.

Creating shared value is at our core. We are passionate about achieving positive, practical solutions for projects, the people they affect, and the environment. We strive to find ways that projects can achieve their desired results while also providing additional value for all parties – in other words, how can we “create shared value”?

Shared Value Solutions Ltd.’s purchases and supply chain relationships provide opportunities to create shared value. Our Purchasing Policy directs us to develop our business *and* contribute to the well-being of the communities in which we work.

We embed sustainable and ethical considerations into our procurement processes. Our Sustainable and Ethical Purchasing Policy guides us to make better purchasing choices so that our firm can continue to reduce its negative impacts on environmental and social systems, locally and globally while promoting a health community and health workplace. For example, if we need to purchase paint, our purchasing policy should lead us to purchasing water-based, low VOC paint that has less environmental impact than petroleum-based paint and is healthier for people who live or work in the painted area. We might also choose to purchase this type of paint product from a manufacturer based in Burlington, Ontario 50 kilometres from our main office and a manufacturer that applies science-based environmental certification standards to its paint manufacturing process.

Sustainable and ethical purchasing helps us to influence the market, encourage businesses to offer more innovative and responsible options at lower prices, and supports local/regional economic development and community well-being.

Sustainable and Ethical Purchasing Commitments

- 1) We conduct our business in environmentally responsible ways and consider future generations in our decisions, linking to the similar efforts of the communities in which we work.
- 2) We understand sustainable and ethical purchasing to mean including social, environmental, financial and performance factors in our purchasing decisions systematically. If a product or service is needed, we consider how products are made, what they are made of, where they come from and their lifecycle costs. We make strategic decisions to move from products that are currently unsustainable, to products and services that are more sustainable in the long-run.

- 3) We are true to our name, and seek to create shared value solutions through collaborative initiatives and multi-partner ventures that enhance community well-being and community prosperity.
- 4) We rely on a combination of approved external independent certifications, supplier disclosures and certifications, and public disclosure of information about factory and production facilities to help ensure compliance with this policy.
- 5) We evaluate and accept on a case-by-case basis any instances where it is reasonably determined that supplier practices may differ from policy so long as the purpose and spirit of the policy is always upheld.
- 6) We reserve the right to discontinue business with suppliers who are not responsive to requests to address concerns around workplace practices and instances of non-compliance with this policy.
- 7) Prior to purchasing a product we consider:
 - a. Do we really need this?
 - b. Can we reduce our need for this?
 - c. Are there re-use or recycled alternatives?
 - d. Are there sustainable brands / suppliers with approved external independent certifications, supplier disclosures and certifications, and public disclosure of information?
 - e. Can we purchase from a local/regional supplier within 200 kilometers of our offices or communities in which we work?
 - f. Can we purchase from First Nation, Inuit or Métis suppliers, such as those registered with the [Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business](#)?
 - g. Can we purchase from a [B Corporation](#)?
 - h. Can we purchase from suppliers that support the [Canadian Fair Trade Network](#), especially to help our home community of [Guelph to become a Fair Trade City](#) by purchasing Fair Trade products sold locally?
 - i. Can we purchase from small local businesses?
 - j. Are there an energy efficient, low or zero carbon options?
 - k. Are there alternatives that are efficient in the use of water and other natural resources?
 - l. Are there alternatives that support workplace health, including low or no VOCs, no fragrance and natural materials?
 - m. Can we compare lifecycle costs of alternatives?
 - n. Are there alternatives that contribute to a creative, collaborative, fun and energizing workplace?
 - o. Are there alternatives that promotes sustainable design?
 - p. Are there opportunities connected to the purchase that enable us to work with organizations in the supply-chain to create shared value?
- 8) We will communicating our satisfaction with specific sustainable and ethical purchases to our clients, associates, professional peers and others through our website, meetings and social media.
- 9) We will seek to support and attend local/regional workshops and conferences that advance sustainable, ethical and First Nation, Inuit and Métis purchasing in the communities in which we work.

Corporate Governance

- 10) The Board of Directors of Shared Value Solutions Ltd. will meet once per year to review this Policy and review company activities in relation to this policy, with a goal to improving the Policy and continually improving ways to operationalize the Policy.

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