

ID: 415

Abstract for Applied Research/Practice Work

Topics: Innovative Construction, Control Techniques for Energy Management

Keywords: environmental , social, economic impacts, wellbeing, sustainability

Sustainable Procurement in Building Practice

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This paper will address the sustainable procurement in building practice.

Environmental procurement policies started appearing at the European and international levels and some grew into sustainable procurement policies. Many governments, have now implemented policies promoting sustainable procurement principles.

Sustainable procurement aims to reduce the adverse environmental, social and economic impacts of purchased products and services throughout their life. Examples of environmental, social and economic impacts are:

- inputs of natural resources, energy and water in the manufacture, use and disposal of goods
- pollution from the manufacture, use and disposal of goods
- costs of operation and maintenance over the life of the goods
- labour conditions in the manufacture, use and disposal of goods or delivery of services.

Sustainable procurement looks beyond the up-front cost to make purchasing decisions based on the entire life cycle of the goods and services, taking into account associated costs,

environmental and social risks and benefits, and broader social and environmental implications.

Economic impact.

Key concepts in sustainable procurement:

A number of concepts and approaches assist with incorporating sustainability considerations into procurement decisions.

Value for money: Achieving value for money is a core rule.

Wellbeing: This reflects the combination of economic prosperity, community liveability.

Sustainability: This depends on maintaining or enhancing the wellbeing of society over time.

Benefits to the community can include:

- reducing adverse environmental and social impacts arising from procurement decisions
- reducing waste to landfill, saving water and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- reducing air and water pollution
- reducing consumption of both natural and processed resources
- promoting health, safety and equality in the community
- influencing purchasing decisions to support issues such recognising equality and diversity; increasing employment and skills.
- improving social inclusion and cohesion through creating employment and business opportunities for disadvantaged or marginalised groups.