

Development of Best Environmental Procurement Practice

The main objective of this project was to develop procurement techniques that consider environmental impact alongside price and other “quality” issues during the tendering process and to develop strategies to promote environmental awareness. It was carried out by Environmental Resources Management (ERM), in co-operation with Achilles Information Ltd and has involved input from both the procurement and environmental management functions within the Environment Agency.

Discrete, yet interlinked, tools and strategies have been produced, which will be used to take account of environmental factors at various points in the Environment Agency’s procurement process. Other methodologies for use in the procurement process (e.g. product environmental risk assessment) have been developed under separate R&D projects.

The project has resulted in the following:

- Supplier questionnaires. Two questionnaires have been developed, one specifically for SME (Small to Medium Enterprise) suppliers and one for all other suppliers, regardless of the size of spend. These questionnaires are intended to enable the Agency to evaluate the environmental credentials of potential suppliers and may be used as part of a baseline review of the whole supply base. The questionnaires have been developed in conjunction with an evaluation matrix which will enable the Agency to build a quantitative environmental profile of each supplier.
- Development of a model which allows the Agency to resolve potential conflicts between financial cost and environmental benefit in tender assessment. This has been achieved by extending the Agency’s existing quality/price model to include environmental factors.
- A marketing strategy aimed at improving environmental awareness amongst all of the Agency’s suppliers, including civil engineering contractors and consultants. This strategy sets out objectives, methodologies and a recommended plan of action.
- A marketing strategy aimed at other stakeholder groups such as other Central Government departments, local authorities, professional and trade associations and opinion formers. The aim of this strategy is to promote environmental procurement best practice. The strategy sets out objectives, methodologies and specific actions.
- Draft text for web pages which promote and/or disseminate the environmental procurement objectives of the Agency, the steps being taken to achieve them, and the implications for stakeholders, particularly potential suppliers.

The report is internally for information only. It is not available externally because it contains benchmark data on other companies, and this data is confidential. The findings of the report have been built into the Agency’s Environmental Procurement Strategy.

This R&D Technical Summary relates to information from project E2-020 contained in the following output:-

R&D Technical Report E76 - Procurement R&D Project: Best Practice Guide

Internal Status: Released to Regions

External Status: Restricted

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