

Sustainable Procurement Working Group: Proposed Work Programme

Issue and Outcomes	Activities	Benefits	Status	Opportunities/ideas
<p>Issue: Awareness raising and information collection & dissemination</p>	<p>SSN information channels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - News - Website - Community of Practice (CoP) 	<p>Raises awareness of sustainable procurement issues amongst SSN members and a wider audience that access SSN news.</p> <p>Supports better information sharing between Scottish local authorities and other organisations about good practice, products and services, standards, guidance, policies, events, etc.</p> <p>Through signposting supports improved knowledge and use of existing services provided by Scottish Government and other key UK, EU and global bodies.</p>	<p>On going with enhanced News and CoP live April/May 2011</p>	<p>Wider sharing of information One of the strengths of SPWG is the rich mix of organisations involved. This is unlikely to be replicated in the membership of the SSN procurement CoP, at least initially. Is there merit in: looking at information flows between community planning partners in terms of procurement; identifying the benefits of more shared learning; and establishing the best solution.</p> <p>Would SSN be well placed to co-ordinate this research working closely with key partners? Such research would need to be scoped and funded.</p>
<p>Outcome: Improved awareness and knowledge of sustainable procurement issues and opportunities, leading to more active engagement, enhanced capacity and improved delivery.</p>	<p>SPWG meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4+ meetings a year - Current focus on SSPAP, training, good practice and specific opportunities 	<p>Supports better information sharing between members including procurement and sustainable development officers in local authorities, Scottish Government, COSLA, Scotland Excel, NHS and SDC.</p> <p>Provides a forum for specialist input and capacity building.</p> <p>Provides a forum for networking with other relevant networks such as SOPO (Society of Procurement Officers in Local Government) and SLGPF (Scottish Local Government Procurement Forum).</p> <p>Identifies opportunities for joint working and action on specific procurement issues.</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Sustainable Procurement Quarterlies There appears to be both supply and demand for more frequent in-depth sustainable procurement events for a core audience of local authority procurement & sustainability officers. Other key groups, such as community planning partners, could also benefit from such events and this would support joint working.</p> <p>An illustrative list of potential hot topics will be made available on the CoP. An outline programme for an initial event funded by Edinburgh City Council is being developed.</p>
	<p>SSN Events</p>	<p>Provides opportunities to expose a wider</p>	<p>On-going</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quarterlies - conference 	audience from local authorities and beyond to sustainable procurement and to hear directly from leading thinkers and practitioners		4 events a year for 60-80 delegates.
<p>Issue: Training</p> <p>Outcome: Enhanced organisational capacity leading to the improved delivery of sustainable procurement by Scottish local authorities.</p>	<p>Sustainability & procurement training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Led by Scotland Excel - Funded by Scottish Government with in-kind support from Scotland Excel - Informed and supported by SSN & SPWG. 	<p>Mutual understanding of: the procurement and sustainability roles; the policies, targets, challenges and constraints of each function; and how to work together to deliver SSPAP.</p> <p>A shared language and improved relationships between disciplines within local authorities and at a regional level.</p> <p>The development of an organisational SPAP through use of the Flexible Framework self-assessment toolkit.</p>	Live May/June 2011	<p>Training gaps and provision</p> <p>There is an increasing amount of training provision focused on sustainable procurement. What is less clear is how accessible, appropriate and effective this provision is in meeting the needs of procurement specialists, key decision makers and customers in local authorities.</p> <p>There may be opportunities for joint working between SSN and other organisations to identify and address any key gaps. In the short-term this need could be partly addressed through the proposed sustainable procurement quarterlies above.</p>
<p>Issue: SSPAP and Flexible Framework</p> <p>Outcome: Enhanced organisational capacity leading to the improved delivery of sustainable procurement by Scottish local authorities.</p>	<p>SSPAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - central to the work of SPWG 	SSPAP is addressed through many of the activities above, particularly SPWG and sustainability & procurement training but also information channels and events. Many of the associated benefits will accrue to SSPAP.	On going	<p>SSPAP in LA Research</p> <p>Early indications from SPWG and SOPO are that progress against the SSPAP by local authorities in Scotland is patchy. Would there be merit in research to gather evidence of progress, good practice and any common issues? Would SSN be well placed to co-ordinate this research working closely with key partners? Such research would need to be scoped and funded.</p>
	<p>Timber & paper procurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WWF proposal 	<p>Raises awareness of the sustainable procurement issues for timber and paper goods and the links to carbon reduction commitments and SSPAP.</p> <p>Increases motivation to take action along with improved knowledge and use of</p>	TBC	

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		existing services and tools offered by CPET (Central Point of Expertise for Timber).		
<p>Issue: Building on the sustainable procurement programme priority within SSN</p> <p>Outcome: Builds from all the above to improve delivery of sustainable procurement by Scottish local authorities</p>	<p>Project Management - SSN core team support SPWG</p>	<p>The benefits of SSN core team support and active SPWG membership are captured under all the headings above. However, interest and demand for sustainable procurement support is growing and the current resource is already stretched.</p>	<p>On going</p>	<p>Additional Project Management Additional resource would enable SSN to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support and strengthen SPWG to meet demand through enhanced secretariat services, support for new members, building the presence and recognition of SPWG; - Actively explore and deliver (where appropriate) the new opportunities listed in the column above; - Facilitate and encourage opportunities for joint working; - Support faster recognition of issues and opportunities.