Sustainable Procurement

Meeting your ESG targets through optimization

Sustainability: A Strategic Business Imperative

Sustainability isn't just a trend—it's the key to our future. It's all about meeting today's needs without draining the resources future generations will depend on.

In simple terms, it means finding a way to live within our means and preserve the planet's resources for years to come.

Sustainable procurement is a powerful way to make an impact, ensuring that your supply chain delivers economic, social, and environmental benefits while cutting waste and inefficiencies.

Setting the Scene

As we navigate through this pivotal decade, the urgency for climate action has never been more pressing. Each month brings us closer to 2030—a critical milestone for environmental targets.

The consequences of inaction are evident. In recent years, we've witnessed unprecedented heatwaves across Europe, devastating floods in Pakistan, and rampant wildfires in regions like Spain and California. Our planet's resources are under immense strain: deforestation is accelerating, freshwater sources are dwindling, and a staggering one-third of global food production is wasted. If current trends continue, we risk depleting our forests and vital ecosystems by the end of the decade.

Businesses, especially large enterprises, play a pivotal role in this scenario. They are at the heart of production, consumption, and waste, influencing economies and communities worldwide. This central position means they have both a significant responsibility and a unique opportunity to drive meaningful change, and influence change in their value chains.

A significant portion of a company's environmental impact —in most cases over 80% of their carbon footprint, reside in scope 3 emissions with over 40% within their supply chain. This underscores the importance of sustainable procurement. By prioritizing suppliers committed to environmental and social responsibility, businesses can enhance efficiency, reduce costs, mitigate risk and bolster their sustainability credentials.

The Challenges Businesses Face

Many companies want to adopt sustainable procurement but struggle with:

- Increasing ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) regulatory compliance requirements, and increasing client requests for product, service and company related information.
- Finding and partnering with the right sustainable suppliers & partners.
- Balancing sustainability goals with cost-saving initiatives.
- Limited in-house expertise to manage sustainable procurement and supply chain risk mitigation and management effectively.

How ERA Group Makes Sustainability Work for You

At ERA Group, we make sustainable procurement simple and cost-effective. We take the complexity out of the process, helping you save money while reducing your environmental impact. Here's how:

1. ESG Risk Assessments

We identify supply chain risks and hidden opportunities to improve sustainability while ensuring full ESG compliance. You get a clearer picture of your procurement's impact—and a strategy to improve it.

2. Pathway to Net Zero

Becoming carbon neutral and Net Zero is a major goal for many businesses, but it can feel overwhelming. We help you measure, reduce your carbon footprint, and what you can't reduce offset, with practical, achievable strategies for both short, mid and long term.

3. Smarter Supplier Selection

The right suppliers make all the difference. We connect you with partners who share your sustainability values, ensuring ethical sourcing, long-term viability, and compliance with regulatory standards.

4. Sustainable Savings That Fund Your Future

Many believe sustainability comes at a cost—we prove the opposite. We uncover hidden savings in your procurement, freeing up funds to reinvest in sustainability initiatives—all without needing to expand your team.

The ERA Group Advantage

Partnering with ERA Group means you can:

- Cut Costs While Driving Sustainability – Achieve cost efficiencies without compromising ESG goals.
- Stay Compliant and Reduce Risk – Keep up with evolving regulations and protection within your supply chain.
- Boost Your Brand and Reputation – Show customers and investors that you're serious about sustainability and help retain and attract talent.

Success Stories

Discover how businesses like yours have cut procurement costs while making measurable progress toward sustainability goals.

era GROUP CASESTUDY

Clintons: The Greetings Cards Chain Bags a Sustainable Future

Clintons

THE CLIENT:

An icon of the British high street, Clintons was founded in 1968 to provide customers with a straightforward way of purchasing greetings cards and gifts. Highlighted in its mission statement,

"Clintons believes in enhancing relationships through the expression of personal emotion and the celebration of sincere connections."

"We wanted a carrier bag that was fully recycled and recyclable, one that complements the quality look and feel of our products whilst making significant cost savings. It required considerable effort on all sides, but eventually, they were able to exceed our original expectations, and we remain delighted with the outcome."

DOMINIC GREEN, HEAD OF FINANCE, CLINTONS

SUSTAINABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:

The new bags are
100% recyclable

The new bags consist of
50% recycled material

The new bags were sourced at a
cost-effective rate
from the incumbent supplier

Sourcing the bags from Malaysia rather than China reduced the bags' carbon
1000 kilometres

THE CHALLENGE:

The world is drowning in plastic.

Approximately 100 billion plastic carrier bags are used in Europe every year, requiring 12 million barrels of oil to produce.

Eight billion of those bags end their life as litter, cluttering our countryside and polluting our waterways.

Clintons, therefore, had just one goal in mind:

To reduce its environmental impact and achieve a more sustainable future.

Having consulted with Expense Reduction Analysts on previous projects, Head of Finance Dominic Green decided to meet with his trusted advisors, principal consultant St John Rowntree and packaging specialist Richard Anson, once again.

FINANCIAL SAVINGS:
39.1%

Your Next Steps to Smarter Sustainable Procurement

Getting started is simple:

1. Consultation – We assess your current procurement strategy and pinpoint gaps and opportunities.

2. ESG & Risk Analysis – We identify risks and gaps in your supply chain.

3. Supplier Optimization – We connect and help you evaluate potential more sustainable suppliers or help improve your current suppliers.

4. Ongoing Support & Savings – We continuously monitor and refine your strategy to ensure long-term success, with KPIs around cost savings, sustainability and service delivery.

Let's Talk Sustainability & Savings

Sustainable procurement doesn't have to be complicated—or expensive. ERA Group makes it easy and profitable, and we can help you with the potential to self-fund your decarbonisation journey to Net Zero. Get in touch today and turn sustainability into your competitive advantage, whilst creating long term value balancing environmental, social and economic factors.

Want to know more?

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value through insight™