THE CO-OPERATORS GROUP OF COMPANIES SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING POLICY

The Co-operators is committed to conducting its business in accordance with its Sustainability Policy. We recognize we have impact and influence upstream and downstream of our operations. To that end, our Sustainable Purchasing Policy guides the Sustainable Purchasing Programs developed to inform our buying decisions and signal our priorities to the marketplace, both through Claims and Corporate Purchasing.

In order to reduce our environmental footprint and become a catalyst for sustainability, The Co-operators seeks to do business with organizations that share our values and are similarly committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Co-operators will:

- Make purchasing decisions based on a balance between economic, social and environmental factors by ensuring that social and environmental criteria related to product and service attributes and supplier operations are regularly included in the evaluation of supplier bids and proposals
- Seek to reduce the negative and enhance the positive environmental and social impacts of our spending
- Seek to source from suppliers that are making a positive difference to society, including fair trade, co-operative, social enterprise and other social purpose businesses
- Use eco-labels and other recognized sustainability certifications to define preferred or mandatory criteria related to particular products and services
- Encourage suppliers to have a written sustainability policy, supply more environmentally-preferred and socially responsible products and services, and manage their operations in ways that foster sustainability
- Maintain minimum performance standards for our suppliers through our Code of Conduct and work with those who are out of compliance to help them improve sustainability performance. Only as a last resort will we end supplier relationships that are not aligned with our values, preferring an approach characterized by engagement and continuous improvement.
- Provide guidance and training to encourage staff involved in purchasing to adopt more sustainable practices to reduce costs and the negative environmental and social impact of goods and services we buy, while enhancing the positive sustainability impacts
- Measure, monitor and report on both internal and supplier compliance with the Sustainable Purchasing Program
- Work with stakeholders to share experiences and adopt best practice
- Communicate this Policy to our stakeholders and work towards full implementation
- Commit to a process of continuous improvement, regular review and ongoing upgrading of the Sustainable Purchasing Program

The Co-operators Corporate Sustainable Purchasing Program is co-ordinated by the Manager of Sustainability and Corporate Citizenship through the Sustainable Purchasing Committee which reports to The Co-operators Sustainability Steering Committee.