

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Green Procurement Policy

General Statement

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) is committed to green procurement so that goods and services are acquired with minimal or no adverse impacts on the environment. The policy requires the University to take into account the full life-cycle of all the products or services procured and play a significant role in the advancement of environmental stewardship on both its campus and in the wider community. The same principles apply to all services and works provided by consultants and contractors that PolyU may hire.

Goals

The goals of the policy are:

1. To incorporate green purchasing principles into all specifications, design, planning, operations and maintenance activities on campus with a view to safeguarding the environment and to ensure health and safety;
2. To balance environmental and fiscal responsibilities in making purchasing decisions;
3. To meet the most current environmental standards or criteria;
4. To enhance awareness of the need for environment preservation; and
5. To set an example to the wider community.

Implementation

PolyU will prepare and review all tender specifications, purchasing activities and work contracts in such a way as to ensure compliance with this policy. In line with the green purchasing practices, priority shall be given to products or services that are green-label-accredited, incorporate green measures, and are economically rational. Specifically, emphasis will be put on the following principles:

1. Avoid single-use disposable items.
2. Give preference to products that are recyclable and/or with high-recycled content, biodegradable, have reduced packaging and greater durability than other products on offer.
3. Promote efficiency in the use of resources, including water and energy.
4. Employ clean technology, renewable energy and/or clean fuels.
5. Minimise emission of irritating or toxic substances during installation or use.
6. Minimise emission of substances that cause damages to the environment and ecosystems.
7. Minimise production of toxic substances upon disposal.

In addition, where appropriate, consideration shall also be given to both the life cycle cost and cost of ownership when procuring products and services. PolyU will take every opportunity to enhance awareness of green procurement among its stakeholders.