



Sustainable Choice News

Issue 17, March, 2017

Scorecards

As part of program membership, councils are asked to participate in an annual sustainable procurement survey. The survey is designed to gain feedback about the Sustainable Choice Program and information about how member councils are progressing in sustainable procurement. The results of the survey are analysed and put into a confidential Scorecard report for each participating council to highlight areas of focus for the following year. Sustainable Choice relies on this information to continue delivering the program in a way that is relevant and useful to councils across NSW.

All members who completed the 2016 survey received their sustainable procurement Scorecard in January. The Scorecard indicates the level of progress each council has achieved in implementing sustainable procurement culture as a percentage, with 0 to 25% considered as 'initiated', 26 to 50% is considered as 'activated', 51 to 75% is considered as 'intermediate' and 76 to 100% is considered as 'advanced'. Once again we have seen an increase in the average score for Sustainable Choice members, with the average for 2016 sitting at 46%, which is up by 2% from 2015. The 2016 Sustainable Choice Annual Data Report, which provides the survey results at state-level, is now available [here](#).



New look Sustainable Choice database

Don't forget to check out the new look Sustainable Choice sustainable products and services database!

The newly enhanced database was launched in December. After a lot of research, planning and listening to feedback from Sustainable Choice members and suppliers a more user-friendly tool is now available. Some of the new features include up-to-date and advanced searching capability and more streamlined registration process for suppliers. Check it out [here](#)!

Thank you also to those members who have referred local suppliers for us to assess for inclusion on the Sustainable Choice database. We always need your help to increase the number of sustainable suppliers listed in order to improve our service. If you need any further information about the process please contact us. It is free for suppliers to display their products and services so long as they meet our criteria. More information on the criteria is available [here](#).

If you are going to tender for a product or service and are looking to engage a sustainable supplier, ask potential suppliers to apply for an account with the database as part of the tendering process. That way the Sustainable Choice team can do the sustainability checks for you. If the supplier's application is successful you can feel confident that their sustainability credentials are credible. You can find an example supplier sustainability questionnaire [here](#).



ISO 20400 to be published mid-April 2017!

The new International Standard for sustainable procurement, ISO 20400, will be officially published worldwide in mid-April 2017. Sustainable Choice has represented local government on the Australian committee for the development of the standard.

ISO 20400 is a guidance standard that provides a framework for implementing sustainable procurement within organisations. The standard has been developed to suit a wide range of organisations of different size and industry. It outlines the concept of sustainable procurement, the drivers for it and key considerations to implementing it. It then proceeds to give guidance on analysing and addressing key

Councils can use the document to identify all the steps they should take when embedding sustainability into their procurement function, including outlining what aspects need to be considered and how best to address those aspects.

Following publication, councils can purchase the standard through the SAI Global online infostore:

<https://infostore.saiglobal.com/>

Should you be interested in finding out more about the new ISO 20400 standard, a course is currently offered by Planet Procurement in Sydney on 9 May 2017. You will learn how to use ISO 20400 to successfully achieve social, environmental and economic objectives through procurement. For more information contact:

Jean-Louis Haie from Planet Procurement

E: info@planetprocurement.com.au

A flyer with information is available on: <http://createsend.com/t/d-4C1591E469F26393>

Additionally, for councils wanting to implement the standard, remember that Sustainable Choice is here to assist!

Resources and links

Did you know that the Sustainable Choice website has a number of [resources](#) and [links](#) to assist you with sustainable procurement implementation? If you are looking for information and can't find it through our website please contact the Sustainable Choice Team.

Below are tools and resources recently added to the Sustainable Choice website:

[United Nations Tools for Procurers](#)

[International Learning Lab on Public Procurement and Human Rights](#)

[APCC - Assessing a Supplier's Sustainability Credentials](#)

[Australian Government Guide for Sustainable Procurement of Services](#)

[The Ceres Roadmap for Sustainability](#)

[A Sampling of Successes in Green Public Procurement: Case Studies of Green Public Procurement](#)

[Implementation in Asia-Pacific Countries](#)



New standard for cement, concrete and concrete products

[Good Environmental Choice Australia \(GECA\)](#) has released a new standard for cement, concrete and concrete products. The standard seeks to support and reward manufacturers who make efforts to minimise the environmental, health and social impacts of cement and concrete production.

Despite its popularity in the building industry, concrete production can have a significant environmental impact, particularly during the sourcing and manufacturing stage of its life cycle. Concrete and cement industries are known for using large quantities of raw materials, water and energy, and for releasing a significant amount of CO₂. New sustainable initiatives aim to improve cement and concrete production and composition, and to lessen its environmental impact.

The GECA standard will provide assurance that the certified product meets strict sustainability criteria. The standard is currently under review for recognition under the Green Building Council of Australia's (GBCA) Green Star ratings tools, and is recognised by the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia's (ISCA) ratings system.

Interesting Articles

Below are links to some articles that relate to sustainable procurement that we think you may find interesting/useful.

[The eco guide to good plastic](#)

[Why Unilever Is Betting Big On Sustainability](#)

[Sustainable Procurement Increases Revenue Growth](#)

[Meet the nine billion-dollar companies turning a profit from sustainability](#)

NSW Environment Protection Authority Treated Timber Initiative

Treating timber with pesticides protects it from decay and pest attack and allows wood to be used in a wide variety of building and renovations. But not all timber treatments are alike: copper chrome arsenate (CCA) treated timber contains arsenic, a known human carcinogen.

CCA-treated timber cannot be used on high-contact timber structures: this includes garden furniture, picnic tables, exterior seating, children's play equipment, patio and domestic decking, and handrails. But there are alternatives.

The NSW EPA has published a suite of user-friendly products to inform builders and renovators – including councils and their contractors - about how to choose the right product for the job, stay safe from potential hazards when working with treated timber and protect the environment. These include a video, an interactive learning module, and print and on-line information.

Visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au/treated-timber to find out more, or call Environment Line on 131 555.

Contact the Sustainable Choice team today

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The Sustainable Choice program is a partnership between Local Government NSW and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

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