

PROCUREMENT TALK, SERIES 7 EPISODE 8

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES

Date: 15 July, 2025



Welcome to Procurement Talk and this is your host David Byrne. Procurement Talk is for procurement and business professionals, where we provide insights and solutions to your procurement challenges.

Hello and welcome to Procurement Talk. This is your host David Byrne. It's great to be back for another episode. This episode is titled Environmentally Sustainable Business Practices.

Sustainability is no longer about doing less harm. It's about doing more good. As procurement specialists, BWD Consulting are conscious of sustainability initiatives in the purchases and the recommendations we make. Sustainability should be an important consideration in purchases, policies and practices for any sized organisation.

But how do you make that transformation? How do you make that change and put in place environmentally sustainable business practices? Well, the key is having a plan, having a five or ten year written plan about how you want to go about it. It doesn't have to happen quickly, so by planning it and putting things in place, those incremental changes that we're going to talk about will happen over time, and you'll be able to give your organisation that desired lift that you're looking for.

Sustainability is the key to the survival of our planet and will also determine success on all levels as we move forward as a community. We're all one big community, so we must do and ensure that we're putting in place environmentally sustainable business practices.

So when you start the plan, think about it. What do you want to achieve over the next five to ten years? Make the initiatives measurable. That's really important. If you don't measure it, you're never really going to hit a mark, it's just going to be out there in the vapor. You don't want that. You want to make sure that the initiatives that you're putting in place are measurable, tangible. Aim for an increase in improvements each year. And it could be simple things like decrease in electricity, water usage, or the decrease in the use of photocopy paper, and increase use of recyclable bottles and cans. You could keep a record of the quantity of toxic chemicals that are no longer used so that you can actually measure how you're tracking and how you're going along.

Keep your employees engaged. Get them involved in the process. Announce and celebrate improvements each year with your employees, that way, they're on board, they're on the journey. And they're the ones that are going to take the initiatives forward. They're the ones that are going to do things when they should be done.

Because sustainability, it's the right thing to do. It's the smart thing to do. And it's the profitable thing to do. You've just got to look at some major corporations around the world and how they're

embracing environmentally sustainable business practices. Apple is a classic example. They've reached 100% renewable energy across its data centres, retail stores and offices. It's a goal that they set for their entire value chain, including manufacturing, products, and 100% clean energy by 2030. What a great goal. What a great goal to have out there for such a large organisation. IKEA also have a similar goal about renewable electricity.

But you can do other things as well. You can do things that are unique to your organisation that make the difference at that local level - install low flow water taps and water efficient toilets, use non-toxic and less toxic cleaning products, plan your energy use better, use rechargeable batteries, install solar panels, clean your air conditioning filters on a regular basis so they are more efficient. It's just about being conscious of sustainability in your workplace and what you're doing. Try to reuse whenever possible, that really is, that's made a huge difference. I mean, you've just got to look at recyclable bags now and how we've changed, how we carry things out of the supermarkets now. It's that whole concept of being environmentally sustainable and thinking about the environment and wanting to do the right thing for us and the survival of our planet, and that's a really important thing for us to do as individuals and also on a corporate level.

Well, I hope what I've covered today resonates with you. You may already have some sustainability practices in place and may wish to add to those efforts. If we can help you with this at all, whether you need some expertise or you just don't have the resource, give me a call at BWD Consulting and we can discuss how we can help. See our website, bwdconsulting.com.au, for our contact details. Well, there you have it. That's the episode for today. Do your part. Make the changes that are necessary. Start that plan and put those initiatives in place for everyone. All the very best and bye for now.

This concludes this episode of Procurement Talk. Thank you for listening. Procurement Talk is brought to you by David Byrne and BWD Consulting. We're helping organizations transform procurement. Talk to you again soon. Bye for now.