

PROCUREMENT TALK, S7 E12

ISO 20400 – SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT GUIDANCE

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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 "ISO 20400 Sustainable Procurement Guidance".

That's a bit of a different title, isn't it? But more and more companies worldwide are adopting ISO 20400 to enhance their sustainable procurement practices, especially in industries such as manufacturing, retail, and also the government sector. The procurement practices of these companies have embraced the standards to improve their supply chains, transparency and sustainability. But with the additional benefits of customers' interest and loyalty, enhance brand and reputation, and in turn, increase profits.

So ISO 20400, it's out there, and it's been around since 2017, so it's not a new standard. And so I thought on this podcast, I'd highlight the website, ISO20400.org, as a great resource for people and procurement and business professionals out there. It provides a range of information on case studies, articles, videos, podcasts, (none of mine, but), and a self-assessment tool and a range of useful information for any businesses wishing to improve and also expand on their current sustainability efforts through procurement.

It's an important subject, something that can't be ignored, can't be pushed to one side, It should be addressed at the board, at the executive management and the operational level. So it's here, it's here to stay, and we should ensure we bring it into all our processes.

So we know that the profitability growth of our companies depends on economic, environmental and sustainability, for our communities across the world, it's obvious to everyone. And we know that it's in the best interest to contribute to these sustainability efforts. In the communities, you just see the benefits that are flowing through.

So there's some obvious things that you and your organisation can do. Many companies are focused on environmental issues around sustainability and ethical sourcing, and are integrating ISO 20400 into their procurement strategies. That's great news, great to see, but we want to see more and we want to see it continuing to grow and build, not just in some sectors, but in a broader reach.

So we've got a global sustainability initiatives. ISO 20400 outlines some key principles. And I just wanted to talk through these key principles for sustainability and procurement. And they're really going to help your organisation to integrate sustainability into your procurement decisions, so you're making some great, very good decisions, and you've got some clear guidelines on how you're actually going to make those decisions.

First of all, the clear guidance is how organisations can recognise the importance of sustainability in procurement and its impact on social responsibility. Now, that doesn't really

need much explanation at all. It's pretty obvious that there is a social responsibility and through sustainable procurement. And it's obvious that the benefit for our society flows through by doing this activity.

It also focuses on how to integrate sustainability into policies and procedures by embedding this to sustainable procurement policies, procedures, ensuring that your templates and documents that flow on from that are there for the long term. That's putting it in place and having it embedded within your organisation.

Thirdly, it does focus on organisational alignment by bringing stakeholders together and working together to improve sustainability efforts. It's a team effort that is required to pull this together, bring the stakeholders together, make sure everybody's involved and they feel the joy and the encouragement by doing those great initiatives. And how to implement those sustainability initiatives through the procurement process by applying sustainable practices at every stage from supplier selection through to contract and vendor management, and managing those relationships further down.

It also does look at how to engage suppliers by organisations collaborating with suppliers to promote ethical and sustainable practices. Imagine coming together with your suppliers on joint initiatives around sustainability and ethical practices. There's some really good news and some good stories that could come out of that that you could clearly promote within your organisation and within your community.

And lastly, is how to continually improve those sustainable practices by regular assessments, refining the procurement strategies that you have put in place to help maintain those sustainable goals and continue to evolve so that they continue to be set in place and work for your organisation.

Sustainable practices and ISO 20400 is here to stay. It's been around now for nearly 10 years, and there are other standards that relate to this standard. But I really wanted to bring this one to your attention to the great website I mentioned earlier, [ISO20400.org](https://www.iso20400.org), and all its resources. It's a great tool, so I reckon you should check it out.

And as I mentioned earlier, many organisations are paying attention to sustainability in their day-to-day practices, especially in procurement, so well done to those that are leading in this effort.

But if you'd like some help from myself or my team at BWD Consulting, please get in touch through our website at bwdconsulting.com.au and we can help you with your ISO 20400 sustainable procurement practices.

Well, there you have it. That's another wrap for me today. Hope you're having a great one and all the 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 organisations transform procurement.

Talk to you again soon. Bye for now.