

**Navoi State University**

**SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING POLICY**

## **I. Introduction**

Navoi State University (NSU) recognizes the significance of sustainability as a core value shaping its operational, educational, and research missions. The Sustainable Purchasing Policy provides a structured approach to embedding environmental and social responsibility in all procurement decisions. By aligning with Uzbekistan's environmental legislation and global frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this policy ensures that NSU promotes responsible consumption, supports local industry, and reduces its ecological footprint across all university activities.

### **1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Policy**

The policy aims to establish a unified strategy for the procurement of goods, services, and works at NSU in ways that minimize adverse environmental and social impacts. It applies to every academic department, administrative unit, and research division using university, government, or donor funds. This framework guarantees that each procurement process integrates ethical, environmental, and economic considerations.

### **1.2 Basic Concepts of Sustainable Procurement**

Sustainable procurement refers to purchasing processes that deliver value for money while minimizing environmental harm and maximizing social benefits. It considers the entire life cycle of products and services—from production and delivery to disposal. Within NSU, this means favoring suppliers that demonstrate energy efficiency, ethical labor practices, recyclable materials, and eco-friendly logistics.

### **1.3 Principles of the Policy**

The policy rests on these guiding principles:

- **Transparency** – All procurement actions must be documented and publicly accountable.
- **Ethical Conduct** – Procurement shall comply with fair labor, anti-corruption, and non-discrimination laws.
- **Environmental Protection** – Preference will be given to products with minimal carbon footprint, renewable materials, and low waste.

- Social Responsibility – Suppliers must uphold workers’ rights and contribute to community development.
- Continuous Improvement – NSU will periodically refine procurement practices through audits and feedback.

## **II. Implementation Framework**

The Procurement and Supply Office, in collaboration with the Sustainability Office, shall oversee implementation. Each purchase above a defined threshold must undergo a sustainability assessment that evaluates supplier compliance with environmental and ethical criteria. NSU will maintain a Sustainable Procurement Manual to guide departments on integrating sustainability into contracts and tenders.

Implementation Timeline (2025–2028):.

- 2025 – Develop a supplier sustainability database.
- 2026 – Conduct staff training on sustainable procurement.
- 2027 – Integrate environmental reporting into supplier contracts.
- 2028 – Publish the first NSU Sustainable Procurement Report.

## **III. Procurement Procedures**

Procurement shall be based on transparent competition and lifecycle costing. Departments must include environmental specifications in tenders such as recyclability, packaging minimization, and low energy consumption. Suppliers must provide documentation proving compliance with environmental laws. Any deviation must be justified and approved by the Procurement Office.

## **IV. Responsibilities**

- Procurement and Supply Office – Incorporate sustainability criteria in all tenders and supplier evaluations.

- Sustainability Office – Provide training, monitor performance, and produce annual sustainability reports.
- Departments – Ensure all purchasing aligns with this policy and report sustainability outcomes.
- Suppliers – Comply with ethical sourcing and environmental standards; provide relevant certifications.
- University Council – Review progress annually and approve revisions.

## **V. Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Sustainability Office will measure policy effectiveness through key indicators: percentage of sustainable purchases, reduction in waste, and supplier compliance rates. Results will be presented to the Rector and the University Council annually. Regular audits will ensure accountability.

## **VI. Compliance and Review**

All procurement must conform to Uzbekistan’s national procurement regulations and the NSU Charter. Violations may result in administrative disciplinary measures or suspension of supplier contracts. The policy will be reviewed biennially to align with emerging sustainability standards.

## **VII. References**

1. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Environmental Protection (1992)
2. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Public Procurement (2018)
3. United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
4. ISO 20400:2017 – Sustainable Procurement Guidelines
5. Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change Regulations (2023)
6. NSU Charter and Environmental Policy (2024)

7. Abdurakhmanova, D. (2022). Sustainable Procurement Practices in Uzbekistan's Higher Education. Tashkent Economic Review.

### **VIII. Conclusion**

Navoi State University affirms that sustainable procurement strengthens its social responsibility and environmental stewardship. By following this policy, NSU promotes transparency, equity, and ecological integrity in all purchasing operations, contributing to national sustainable development goals and global best practices.