



REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO

Sustainable Procurement Update – July 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That, based on the Staff Report dated July 26, 2022, the Board approve the revised Purchasing Policy integrated with Sustainable Procurement considerations.

BACKGROUND

A list of prior pertinent Board motions leading up to this Report are as follows:

May 24, 2016: “That the Board of the Regional District of Nanaimo acknowledges that the procurement methodologies utilized by the corporation helps drive our economy and shapes the Regional District and, as such, that the Board direct staff to investigate options for the creation, adoption, implementation and evaluation of a Social Procurement Policy for the Regional District of Nanaimo.”

September 28, 2021: “That staff organize a Board workshop in 2022 to identify the Board’s sustainable procurement goals and priorities for the preparation of a sustainable procurement policy by engaging Reeve Consulting to facilitate a virtual workshop and to develop a sustainable procurement program.”

Subsequent to the Board’s September 28, 2021, motion, Reeve Consulting was engaged to develop a sustainable procurement program consisting of the following:

1. Host Board Sustainability Workshop (held virtually on January 6, 2022)
2. Develop Action Plan with Measures for Evaluation
3. Identify High Impact Procurement Opportunities (HIPOs)
4. Management of 4 Sustainable Procurement Working Group Sessions
5. Develop Sustainable Procurement Policy
6. Develop Sustainable Procurement Toolkit
7. Develop Communications and Training Plan with Delivery to Staff

Currently, staff are at Step 5 and are recommending the Board approve the enclosed draft revised Purchasing Policy A2.22 integrated with Sustainable Procurement considerations highlighted in red. If approved, the Sustainable Procurement Toolkit, Communications and Training Plan will be finalized with Reeve Consulting followed by staff training in the Fall of 2022.

Staff are already implementing sustainable procurement by identifying High Impact Procurement Opportunities (HIPOs) earlier this year and incorporating sustainable criteria into solicitations.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The draft policy, if adopted, would broaden the focus of RDN procurement from the current and more narrow objectives “goods/services and cost”. Adding additional criteria inherently reduces a focus on short-term financial implications thereby increasing costs on much (not all) of the RDN’s procurement.

The 2023-2027 financial plan will be prepared and recommendations will be provided to the Board related to the additional costs that will be incurred to specify, evaluate and administer the purchase of goods and services under this newly expanded Board policy. It is a more complex regime with additional risks associated that will require more guidance and support from Finance via Purchasing.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Economic Coordination - Continue to support initiatives that promote regional economic health and local economic development through partnerships and other grant funding opportunities.

Environmental Stewardship – Protect and enhance the natural environment, including land, water, and air, for future generations.

Climate Change – Be leaders in climate change adaptation and mitigation and become net zero by 2032.

REVIEWED BY:

T. Moore, Acting Director of Finance
K. Fowler, Manager, Long Range Planning, Energy & Sustainability
D. Wells, General Manager, Corporate Services
D. Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

1. Draft Purchasing Policy A2.22 integrated with Sustainable Procurement considerations highlighted in red.