

City of Regina Sustainable Procurement Changes

Procurement in Saskatchewan is evolving. As an owner of significant infrastructure, the City of Regina (City) is looking to enhance “best value” procurement in a way that brings additional value to the community. Through new procurement mandates and protocols, the aim is to increase support and encourage development of equity-deserving groups.

Through partnership with the Saskatchewan Construction Association and the Regional Construction Association and its members, the SupplierLink Saskatchewan team has been working with the City on its vendor engagement - a critical component of the City’s sustainable procurement initiatives.

In 2018, Regina City Council unanimously committed to sustainability through a motion to become a renewable, net-zero city by 2050. An important part of achieving that goal will be met through procurement of goods and services from sustainable suppliers and Indigenous businesses. To that end, the City will fully implement two new procurement protocols in Q2 of 2023:

- A Sustainable Procurement Protocol and;
- An Indigenous Procurement Policy.

The Sustainable Procurement Protocol will guide City procurement officials in determining who is a “Sustainable Supplier”. The Protocol directs departments to consider four Sustainable Procurement Pillars when evaluating tenders. Specifically, the four evaluation pillars are Environmental, Economic, Indigenous and Social Sustainability.

The Indigenous Procurement Policy outlines the City of Regina’s commitment to engaging Indigenous businesses to build capacity by procuring goods and services from Indigenous businesses in Saskatchewan.

The City intends to implement these protocols using a phased approach providing vendors time and support to evolve their business practices and supply chains to align with the City’s procurement goals.

Prior to fully implementing these protocols, the City wishes to gain a deeper understanding of the sustainable practices of its current supplier base. This will help The City determine how and on what timeline to phase in these new procurement protocols. In order to gain this deeper understanding of Regina suppliers, the City will be asking opportunity respondents to supply additional information about their companies to establish a baseline of sustainability metrics.

Baseline Data Gathering Phase

Starting on January 3, 2023, and concluding June 30, 2023, the City will conduct a baseline data gathering phase during which information will be collected from all respondents to develop a baseline measure of its suppliers’ sustainability practices.

During the baseline data gathering phase, the City will be requesting that respondents provide workforce diversity information, details of company ownership structure, history of Indigenous hiring practices and other social procurement practices to assist in developing sustainability metrics. During the baseline data gathering phase, sustainability metrics will not be used in the evaluation of respondent bids.

This additional information will be collected utilizing the City's new vendor engagement platform, SupplierLink Saskatchewan. Respondents will be required to have a completed and up to date profile on the platform prior to bid submission. Respondents can register at:

regina.supplierlinksk.ca/Registration/Home

Steady State Procurement

SupplierLink Saskatchewan will be used as part of the vendor engagement, scoring and selection process on all City procurements starting in September 2023. As such all vendors will be required to have an up-to-date profile on SupplierLink prior to submitting their bids.

Vendor Engagement

The City will actively search for and engage with suppliers that align with their sustainability goals and they will use SupplierLink Saskatchewan to help identify those vendors. These engagements may occur prior to opportunities being posted and may result in invitations to bid. Vendors are strongly encouraged to create a profile on SupplierLink as soon as possible and even if they are not currently bidding on an opportunity.

What is Sustainable Procurement?

Sustainable procurement is an enhancement to value-based procurement. Sustainable procurement leverages procurement dollars to provide maximum economic value to the citizens of the City by advancing reconciliation, equity, inclusion, diversity and well-being objectives. Sustainable procurement applies additional scoring criteria or attributes to the selection process which rewards suppliers for practices that bring value to the local economy through their inclusive and diversity-enabling business practices.

What attributes will the City be measuring?

Specific attributes of interest to the City are:

Diversity and inclusion - Does the supplier hire equity deserving groups such as women, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, immigrants, LGBTQ2+ people or visible minorities.

Indigenous Ownership - Is the Supplier a verified Indigenous-owned organization?

Female Ownership - Is the Supplier a verified female-owned organization?

Safety - Is your firm COR or SECOR certified? This will be mandatory for all construction companies who bid on City work by 2025. Do you have WCB clearance and what are your firm's premium rates?

Small Firms - Does your firm employ 100 people or fewer?

Local Vendors - Is the supplier a certified Saskatchewan business? This attribute is of particular importance for projects under the trade agreement thresholds.

Environmental - What are the supplier's environmental practices (reduction of emissions, reuse/recycling of materials, etc.) as well as any reduced emission equipment that will be used during construction or delivery of products or services.

What is the SupplierLink Saskatchewan Initiative?

SupplierLink Saskatchewan started as a Saskatchewan Construction Association initiative to address challenges its members had with the myriad procurement systems they are forced to keep up to date. It became apparent that other industry sectors had similar challenges and the initiative has grown to include the Saskatchewan Industrial Mining Suppliers Association, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan, the Electrical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan, Concrete Sask, and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. The initiative continues to grow and will soon include associations representing additional sectors of the Saskatchewan economy.

What is the SupplierLink Platform?

SupplierLink Saskatchewan is a vendor engagement software platform developed by the Saskatchewan Construction Association in consultation with industry, government and the design community. SupplierLink provides vendors and suppliers with a platform to privately share accurate information to buyers of construction and other goods and services. It improves the confidence of buyers by provisioning information sourced from third party entities such as the Saskatchewan First Nation Natural Resource Centre of Excellence. This also reduces the efforts of vendors and suppliers by reducing the information required to complete their private profile data.