

FAQs about MV's Sustainable Procurement Procedures

1. What are the sustainable procurement procedures?

The procedures ensure that the Corporation's purchasing decisions for the supply of goods, services and construction support GVRD's sustainable regional initiative and our commitment to embed sustainability in our practices and those of our contractors and suppliers.

2. How does this differ from MV's Green Procurement Procedures?

While MV's Sustainable Procurement Procedures focus on the conduct of suppliers and contractors as it relates to their environmental and social practices, Green Procurement focuses on the environmental attributes of the products and services purchased.

3. When did it come into effect?

January 2007.

4. How do the procedures work in practice?

In addition to schedules and requests for information pertaining to pricing, delivery, experience and references, bidders are required to submit declarations that they abide by applicable legislation pertaining to the environment and work place safety, employment and human rights, and to provide a list of previous convictions, if any. In addition, bidders are encouraged to submit information pertaining to their environmental and social policies, programs, initiatives and practices.

5. How do these procedures benefit the region?

Incorporating sustainability principles, as appropriate, in all our activities and practices is an ongoing and collaborative process toward a sustainable region.

6. What are the cost implications?

No additional costs have been experienced to date, but we continue to monitor.

7. The procedures require bidders to declare they comply with all environmental laws and regulations. Whose laws and regulations are they? (e.g. federal, provincial, municipal)

All of those mentioned, as well as any legislation applicable to the bidder.

8. What, if any, changes resulted in the implementation of these procedures?

Changes to bid documents have been made that require Bidders to supply information regarding their sustainable practices. This information is taken into consideration in awarding contracts.

9. Are further changes anticipated?

Yes, further changes are anticipated. Our commitment to practice sustainable procurement continues to be an evolutionary process; future changes, while undefined at this time, are expected.

10. Do our member municipalities have similar procedures? If so, how do our procedures differ from theirs?

Some municipalities have policies that address the three elements (social/ethical, environmental, economic) but due to the nature of their requirements and focus that has been adopted by their local government, they exercise this in different ways.

11. Will a Bidder's Tender or Proposal be rejected if they complete and submit a Declaration form that contains a conviction?

Bidders are not required to be free of violations, but convictions may be taken into consideration in the evaluation of responses.

12. Will the procedures apply to all purchases of goods and services, regardless of whether bids are required?

Currently these procedures apply to all formal competitive selection processes.

13. How are components weighted?

Where convictions aren't cause for rejection, then a weight of 5% will apply for each component (environmental and social).

14. What happens if a bidder forgets to include the Declarations with their submission?

The submission will be considered non-compliant and therefore disqualified.