

Vistula University Institutional Policy on Environmentally Sustainable Procurement

1. Purpose

Vistula University is committed to promoting sustainable development and reducing the environmental footprint of its academic and administrative operations. This policy provides a collaborative framework for integrating environmental considerations into procurement decisions. Its goal is to foster a campus culture of sustainability, offering clear pathways that help departments make eco-friendly purchasing choices alongside standard considerations of quality, functionality, and cost.

2. Guiding Principles

When selecting goods and services, departments are encouraged to consider the following environmental parameters, where practical and aligned with operational needs:

A. Energy Conservation & Climate Protection

To assist the University in optimizing energy use and lowering its indirect carbon footprint, purchasing pathways focus on:

- **Energy-Efficient Equipment:** Favoring IT hardware, office equipment, appliances, and lighting systems with recognized energy-efficiency certifications (such as Energy Star or high EU Energy Label ratings).
- **Renewable Energy Integration:** Supporting utility providers, technologies, and services that utilize or support renewable energy sources.

B. Waste Reduction & Material Stewardship

To support circular economy principles and minimize waste generation across campus, purchasing guidelines emphasize:

- **Resource Optimization:** Utilizing digital systems and software licenses that reduce the need for physical paper. When paper is required, prioritizing recycled or certified sustainable paper products.
- **Packaging and Single-Use Items:** Minimizing unnecessary packaging, opting for items delivered in bulk, and choosing reusable alternatives over single-use plastics or disposable materials.

- **Product Lifecycles:** Selecting durable, repairable, reusable, or recyclable products to extend the life of campus assets and reduce disposal waste.

C. Water Efficiency

In alignment with sustainable resource management, campus facility upgrades focus on:

- Choosing water-saving appliances, low-flow plumbing fixtures, and technologies designed to minimize unnecessary water consumption.

D. Supplier Environmental Responsibility

- **Vendor Practices:** Welcoming collaboration with suppliers who demonstrate environmentally responsible practices or maintain verified environmental certifications.
- **Lifecycle Value Assessment:** Evaluating the total value of goods by considering their lifetime costs—such as maintenance, energy consumption, and disposal—alongside the initial purchase price.

3. Application and Integration

- **Departmental Planning:** Academic and administrative units utilize these guidelines as a helpful reference tool during their standard planning and budgeting cycles.
- **Operational Harmony:** These guidelines operate in harmony with university financial policies, budget structures, and operational requirements, ensuring that core educational and administrative functions remain seamless and efficient.