

Procurement Disruptors

Our Procurement Disruptors series highlights industry leaders that drive change in the way procurement is being done today. We interview champions to see what they believe are trends in the industry and common pain points.



For this edition of Procurement Disruptors, we interviewed a Sustainable Procurement Guru

For confidentiality reasons, our Guru has chosen to stay anonymous

With 12 years of green procurement experience, our Sustainable Procurement Guru recognizes how powerful procurement can be as a tool to share knowledge between various industries. She has moved the procurement industry forward and opened discussion for how procurement should operate in today's world.

ETCH had the pleasure of working with the SP Guru to demystify sustainable procurement across the public procurement space.

Highlights of SP Guru's career:

- Leveraged strong expert background in both sustainability and procurement to make decisions to **bridge the gap** between sustainability and procurement professionals
- One of the many projects she was proudly involved with was a **clean technology project** for a province. As a result of her initiative, this project allowed universities and other jurisdictions to mirror and adopt similar reliable sources of clean technology.
- She continues to develop **Green Procurement practices** that can be implemented across various industries and categories.

SP Guru's Journey to Transforming Sustainable Procurement Practices

What are the key challenges in implementing Sustainable Procurement practices?

- People know that procurement is a very **powerful tool** for sustainability, but struggle to transform the theory into **actionable** and **tangible** procurement practices.
- How to improve the **quality** of human resources and the **application** of strategic experience in Sustainable Procurement in the public and private sectors.
- Working in silos does not allow people to **share** their **knowledge** and **findings** on Green Procurement with others.



How can organizations address the above key challenges?

- **Translate** the concept of sustainability into applicable procurement practices that add value to your current operations.
- **Design** additional requirements and criteria for suppliers to meet to drive the power of sustainability.
- **Hire** people who understand both sustainability practices and the marketplace.
- **Adopt** innovation from various sectors to complement your current sector.
- **Share** procurement instruments and tools which avoid duplicating efforts across teams, save time and give confidence to beginners.



What are the differences between Sustainable and Green Procurement?

- **Sustainable Procurement** is made up of three pillars - environmental, social and economic.
- **Green Procurement** is focused on the environmental pillar of Sustainable Procurement specifically.
- Both practices are quite different when it comes to measuring impact. When looking at Green Procurement, you will see science-based measurements such as **GHG reductions** and waste **diversion**. When looking at Sustainable Procurement, you will see the same measurements within the environmental pillar; however, it will also focus on metrics like **economic** development and fundamental human rights.



What is the biggest challenge in Sustainable Procurement in a post-pandemic world?

It will become increasingly difficult for small-and-medium-sized suppliers to meet the additional environmental requirements and criteria involved in Sustainable Procurement. As business operations have been heavily impacted by COVID-19, there is a shift from **environmental initiatives** to **economic development**. Additionally, this will encourage people to **buy local** which will lower the transportation **carbon footprint** and bring manufacturing back to Canada.



"I recommend harvesting procurement processes for sustainability, rather than trying to change them or invent new ones. There's so much that can be done with procurement – it's a creative toolbox!"

-Sustainable Procurement Guru