Sustainable procurement considers the social, economic, and environmental aspects of all purchasing activities. It is the set of supply chain management policies held and actions taken in response to concerns related to the natural environment and social issues regarding acquisition, production, and distribution of goods.

**Sustainable Procurement at Dal**

- The Dalhousie University Procurement Policy provides the method for which faculty and staff acquire goods.
- The sustainability considerations of the Policy include that procurement involves environmental, social, and ethical considerations and that employees take sustainability considerations into account when purchasing.

**When Making Purchases, Consider:**

- Can it be rented instead?
- Proper sizing
- Durability
- Efficiency
- Locality
- Sustainability impacts of product
- Responsibility
- Reusability
- Size
- Materials used
Fair Labour Association and Worker Rights Consortium

FLA & WRC are non-profit labour rights monitoring organizations. When purchasing, ask if the factories producing the textiles comply with FLA and/or WRC Codes of Conduct.

**Fair Labour Association (FLA)**
- Affiliated companies held accountable for holding up the FLA Code of Conduct
- Verifies working conditions of affiliate factories

**Worker Rights Consortium (WRC)**
- Assists universities in enforcing the WRC Code of Conduct
- Verifies working conditions of affiliate factories

Questions to Ask when Purchasing:

- Are vendors and factories compliant with international labour standards that protect workers rights by prohibiting child/forced labour, protecting health and safety, and ensuring wages and hours meet legal industry standards?
- Ask vendors for their code of conduct.
- Are vendors and factories FLA and/or WRC compliant?
- Do packaging options reduce waste?
- Are leading industry practices being followed to conserve resources and reduce carbon emissions?

Thank you! By considering the impacts of your actions and educating others, you are helping foster a culture of sustainability at Dalhousie. Reference the Sustainable Procurement Checklist online for a full checklist of questions to ask and steps to take to advance sustainable procurement at Dalhousie.

Please share your experiences with us by emailing rethink@dal.ca.