



C3 Embedding climate concerns into procurement processes

Defra's behaviour change approach

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Organisation : Defra

Short description: For public sector organisations it may be useful to hear about how Defra embedded sustainability within its procurement.

For companies: How to drive sustainability within an organisation's structure.

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Executive Summary of your Abstract

Embedding sustainability in an organisation's operating framework is not easy. There may be significant challenges, such as reluctance to change behaviours. This session will focus on what the key enablers are for making change happen and explore practical ways to accelerate change.

Abstract

Defra has responsibility for championing sustainable development across Government. To do so, Defra has to lead by example. Through a number of awareness programmes and events, Defra has managed to change behaviours amongst its staff and managers. The session will explore the soft and hard measures that can be taken within an organisation to drive business change.

In addition to staff Networks and regular awareness campaigns, high profile targets and visibility of good/bad performance can help with unconvinced senior managers. Like any other organisation, we have a range of programmes aimed at different levels of staff that help us promote our messages. One of the most significant steps that have helped us accelerate the pace of change has been visibility of the sustainable development agenda within the Management Board. Our Permanent Secretary has personal objectives that relate to sustainability and one of the Management Board members has overall responsibility for practical delivery of sustainability through the way we manage our estate, ICT and procurement. The MB is updated at quarterly intervals on progress against targets and helps to focus our activities.

The session will focus on a few specific examples that will address capacity building for the procurement team, driving CO2 emissions reductions through better travel management, increasing recycling through awareness campaigns and the importance of setting organisational targets and developing systems to monitor progress against these.

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Conference organisers: ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with the City of Reykjavik

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Resumé

Eleni was trained as a scientist but has been involved in public sector sustainable development issues since 2004. She has previously coordinated Defra's interests across Whitehall and has significant experience in policy making. She is currently implementing sustainability issues in Defra's procurement.

Recommended reading: Sustainable Procurement Task Force - Procuring the Future
UK Government Sustainable Procurement Action Plan
Defra's Sustainable Development Action Plan

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