

Sustainable Procurement Manitoba Working Group  
Progress Report for 2018 and 2019



February 2020

## Introduction

In 2015, the Sustainable Procurement in Manitoba Working Group (*SPMWG*) developed a five year Strategic Plan (2015-2020). The purpose of the plan was to enhance the adoption of sustainable procurement in Manitoba as intended by the Sustainable Development Act and to promote procurement practices that support other sustainability initiatives of Manitoba. To achieve this objective, *SPMWG* identified five goals within the Plan:

1. Increase public sector engagement,
2. Promote sustainable procurement to all Manitobans,
3. Create and maintain up-to-date information and resources for the SPM website,
4. Increase public sector knowledge of sustainable procurement practices and
5. Demonstrate benefits of the Sustainable Procurement in Manitoba (SPM) website and SPMWG to stakeholders.

In 2018 the Provincial Government repealed the Sustainable Development Act and replaced it with the Climate and Green Plan Act. This new Act continues to define sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs” and states one area of focus as “reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving sustainable operations through sustainable procurement of goods and services. Given the mandate outlined in the Act, the SPM working group continued working on the goals defined in their strategic plan.

### **1. Increase public sector engagement:**

SPMWG increased the number of its members to include representation from School Divisions, Academic Institutions and the provincial Procurement Services Branch. These additional members contributed both to enhance the SPM website and to advance sustainable procurement within their respective organizations. Increased membership from the Procurement Services Branch was required to ensure website information and discussions with public sector procurers was congruent with new provincial initiatives including the provincial procurement modernization and requirements for low carbon procurement.

Two newsletters were distributed to the approximate 200 public procurers on the SPM contact list during this time period. These newsletters featured information on the New Climate and Green Plan Act and the impact of procurement on greenhouse gas emissions. The entire content of the newsletters is posted on the website.

### **2. Promote sustainable procurement to all Manitobans:**

The SPM working group members have reached out to the Expert Advisory Council to the Minister of Conservation and Climate for implementation of the Climate and Green Plan Act to reiterate how the working group members and the website content can be used as resources to help achieve the low carbon and sustainable procurement mandate.

The SPM working group has reached out to members of the provincial Procurement Services Branch to reiteration how the working group members can be used as a resource to help develop accessibility and low carbon specifications for goods and services under the collaborative purchasing initiative.

The SPMWG intended to develop a social media presence through LinkedIn to broaden exposure and access to the website. This activity has not progressed since the progress report 2016/2017.

### **3. Create and maintain up-to-date information and resources for the SPM website:**

On a monthly basis, *SPMWG* reviews and updates website content and conducts research to ensure content is current with legislation, environmental and social standards.

In 2018, the Climate and Green Plan and the Climate and Green Plan Act, were reviewed for implications on sustainable procurement and website content. Given the clear mandate and focus on low carbon procurement, *SPMWG* updated the website to provide public procurers guidance on what low carbon procurement is and how it can be achieved. In addition, low carbon specifications have been incorporated into a variety of the commonly procured goods and services listed under the Goods and Services tab on the website.

*SPMWG* also developed five new specifications for goods and services, and continually reviews and updates existing goods and services specification sheets. During this time period the *SPMWG* also updated the Quick Guide for Sustainable Purchasing located on the website.

### **4. Increase public sector knowledge of sustainable procurement practices:**

On November 19, 2019, *SPMWG* hosted a half-day session titled “Supporting Low Carbon Purchasing”. The session was organized in light of the low carbon procurement mandate under the Climate and Green Plan Act. Over 70 public sector employees from provincial departments, school divisions, health sector municipalities, universities, colleges and crown corporations attended.

The session featured guest speakers David McLaughlin, one of Canada’s leading climate and sustainability experts, and Dr. Bruno Silvestre, a professor in the Department of Supply Chain Management and the Directory of the Transportation Institute at the Asper School of Business. Information on the importance of governments to incorporate low carbon requirements in procurement was provided. In addition, the *SPMWG* presented information on how Public Procurers can integrate low carbon requirements as well as providing a quick tour of the updated website.

The session was well received. Participants asked many questions and expressed their intentions to apply low carbon and sustainable principles into procurement activities.

### **5. Demonstrate benefits of SPM website and SPMWG to stakeholders:**

Stakeholders, including member of the Expert Advisory Council and the Low Carbon Government Office have expressed the need for and value of the SPM website and working group. *SPMWG* members would like to increase their stakeholder engagement to advance the provincial mandate to procure low carbon and measure the reduction of emissions associated with procurement.

Signed,



Corinne Evason,  
Chair, Sustainable Procurement in Manitoba Working Group