

Policy on Responsible Sourcing

Policy Objective

O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) is committed to embedding responsible sourcing and sustainable procurement at the core of its operations. This policy aims to ensure that all goods and services acquired by the University support ethical practices, environmental stewardship, social equity, and contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Scope

This policy applies to all University purchases, tenders, services, and supplier relationships, including construction, facilities, faculty, research, IT, hospitality, food and business operations, and all contractual engagements.

Guiding Principles

I. Sustainability and Environmental Impact

- a) Preference shall be given to suppliers who demonstrate reduced carbon footprints, energy efficiency, responsible water use, circularity, and minimized resource extraction.
- b) Procurement of products and materials (including electronics, furniture, food, and consumables) must prioritize recyclability, reuse, low toxicity, and responsible disposal, supporting the campus no-plastic-use policy and e-waste management best practices.
- c) Sourcing should align with principles of the circular economy, minimizing waste, and promoting reuse or recycling.

II. Social Responsibility and Equity

- a) Suppliers must commit to fair labor practices, non-discrimination, safe workplaces, and respect for human rights.
- b) University business partners must be in compliance with anti-child labor, anti-trafficking, equal pay, and workplace safety legislation.

- c) Local sourcing, when feasible, is promoted to support community well-being and economic development.

III. Ethical Governance and Transparency

- a) All sourcing decisions must be transparent, merit-based, and documented with full traceability across the supply chain.
- b) University representatives involved in procurement must avoid conflicts of interest and adhere to the highest standards of integrity.
- c) Compliance with all applicable Indian laws, regulations, and international standards is mandatory.

IV. Climate Action and Resource Conservation

- a) Purchases should favor energy-efficient and water-conserving products and suppliers that have measurable targets for climate action and emissions reduction.
- b) The procurement team is responsible for annually reviewing Scope 3 supply chain emissions and reporting material progress.

Implementation Actions

- I. Integration of sustainability and ethical criteria into all calls for tenders, vendor evaluation, and contract renewals.
- II. Mandate for all new vendors to sign a Supplier Code of Conduct affirming compliance with JGU's responsible sourcing and sustainability expectations.
- III. Preference for certified suppliers (e.g., ISO, Eco-labels, Fair Trade, GreenPro, or equivalent).
- IV. Annual review of major supplier practices, focusing on climate, labor, environmental, and social responsibility impacts.
- V. Vendor training and on-campus awareness programs regarding JGU's responsible sourcing policy, SDGs, and circular economy.
- VI. Engage in partnerships with industry leaders, research centers, and other institutions to promote responsible innovations in supply chain and purchasing.

Monitoring, Reporting, and Continuous Improvement

- I. The Office of Sustainability and Procurement shall conduct annual audits to evaluate compliance with responsible sourcing requirements.
- II. Progress toward SDG-aligned sourcing goals is included in JGU's annual sustainability report for transparency.
- III. Feedback mechanisms (including stakeholder reports and complaint channels) are available to report supply chain violations or ethical concerns.
- IV. Policy and operations will be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect emerging best practices and regulatory changes.