

CHRIST (Deemed to be University)

Sustainable Purchasing Policy

Policy:

CHRIST (Deemed to be University) is committed to integrating sustainability into its procurement processes by prioritising environmentally responsible, socially ethical, and economically viable purchasing practices. Through this policy, the University aims to reduce its environmental footprint, promote fair sourcing, and support local and sustainable markets while ensuring cost-effectiveness and quality in its procurement decisions.

Purchase Process:

- Budget prepared at the beginning of the academic year and all purchases are based on the approved budget.
- Departments/ Centres/ Labs/ Offices identify the assets that need to be purchased.
- Getting approvals from the Head of the Department, Centre, and Offices.
- Purchase committee review and budget approval from the Chief Finance Officer.
- Collecting quotations or issuing tenders, depending on the value.
- Selecting vendors not only on cost but also on their sustainability efforts.
- Placing orders after approvals and checking the goods or services after delivery.

a. Environmentally Responsible Purchasing

1. Give preference to products and services that:
 - a. Are certified energy-efficient (e.g., 5 Star Energy Ratings), use minimal or recyclable packaging, biodegradable, non-toxic, and environmentally safe across their lifecycle.
 - b. Avoid procurement of items with excessive environmental impact, such as: Single-use plastics, PVC-based products, and non-recyclable packaging.
 - c. Prioritise vendors offering eco-labelled or green-certified products.
 - d. The University will ensure that most purchases are from local suppliers to support the local economy and reduce transport emissions.
2. Ensure procurement from suppliers that:
 - a. Adhere to ethical labour practices and fair trade principles.
 - b. Demonstrate compliance with national labour laws and environmental regulations.
 - c. Avoid contracts with suppliers involved in: Child labour, unsafe working conditions, or exploitative practices.

b. Waste Reduction and Circular Economy Initiatives

1. Before raising purchase requests, Departments, Centres, and Offices must first check for available alternatives by exploring existing resources, shared assets, or the possibility of reusing, repairing, or repurposing items to avoid unnecessary new purchases.
2. Promote “Reduce, Reuse, Repair, and Recycle” principles in all purchase decisions.
3. Adopt lifecycle cost assessments for high-value purchases (e.g., lab equipment, IT infrastructure).
4. Establish mechanisms for:
 - a. Redistribution of underutilised assets across departments.
 - b. Responsible e-waste management and end-of-life disposal in partnership with authorised recyclers.

The University will conduct periodic audits to assess the effectiveness of sustainable procurement practices and identify areas for improvement. This policy will also be regularly reviewed to ensure alignment with the latest sustainability benchmarks and evolving best practices in green procurement.

Effective from 05 February 2022.



(Dr Anil Joseph Pinto)
Registrar