



## SUMS Sustainability Policy

### Introduction

SUMS works for universities and is owned by universities. We are a not-for-profit, a registered charity and membership organisation that has three divisions:

**SUMS Consulting** provides expert consultancy to the higher education sector.

**PSS (Procurement Shared Service)** helps universities improve procurement performance by helping clients focus on what matters to deliver value for money and feel confident about the work they do.

**SUPC** helps universities and colleges buy smarter. Members use our frameworks and support services to help ensure their procurement activities deliver value for money for students, staff and the wider community.

### Purpose

This Sustainability policy covers all SUMS group activities and supports the wider environmental, social and economic activities of all the operating divisions of the group.

We aim to do this by taking into consideration the need to balance our environmental impact and social value creation, against the need to remain economically stable. We have processes in place to mitigate the negative impacts we make, and maximise the positive contributions that we are able to make for our economic, social and environmental impact and well-being.

### Planet and Environment

The SUMS group will work to identify the environmental impacts of our operations. We will work to build environmental sustainability into our processes with responsible and sustainable procurement, lower carbon options, energy conservation, resources recycling and waste reduction.

### People and Social

The SUMS group will continue to review and introduce people related policies such as our Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity policy. Through our SUPC Responsible Procurement policy, we will use our considerable market influence to embed, drive



and deliver social value for the users of frameworks and the communities in which they operate.

We are committed to removing modern slavery and human rights abuses from our supply chains, and the supply chains of our members through SUPC.

## Surplus and Economic

The SUMS group will continue to remain economically viable and sustainable, while not diminishing or reducing the positive social or environmental impact in pursuit of surplus. The SUMS group recognise that to be economically sustainable, we need to create sustainable value for people and the planet.

The SUMS group is committed to carrying out its activities in an environmentally, socially, and economically responsible manner. We will enter in agreements and contracts with suppliers and partners that share and adhere to our vision.

To demonstrate this compliance, we are asking all SUPC suppliers to sign up to Supplier Code of Conduct to confirm their commitments to our ideals.

## Our Priorities for This Academic Year

- Develop a greater understanding of our carbon emissions and develop guidelines and targets to reduce to our carbon impact
- Develop an understanding of our own unconscious biases, and develop guidelines to reduce barriers to tendering for underrepresented groups, and to embed social value into our procurement processes
- Recognise our financial impact upon the HE sector and fully embed responsible procurement in our procurement processes, to ensure the economic sustainability of the SUMS group and our supply chain.

To understand more, please see the following on our website at [www.supc.ac.uk](http://www.supc.ac.uk):

- SUPC Responsible Procurement Policy
- SUMS Group Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity Policy
- SUPC Working SMEs Policy and Tendering Guidelines
- Supplier Code of Conduct.

If you have any questions, please email us at [supc@reading.ac.uk](mailto:supc@reading.ac.uk).