



HIGGINS CONSTRUCTION PLC – RESPONSIBLE SOURCING POLICY

Introduction

Higgins Construction PLC is a major UK construction company that puts community at the core of its business activities and this commitment has enabled Higgins to become one of the leading community contractors in London and the South East. Higgins is committed to minimising our environmental impact, promoting good environmental practice, and ensuring we operate in a socially responsible manner.

Higgins spends millions of pounds each year with its supply chain to support our business activities while at all times following responsible purchasing practices that align with our Corporate Social Responsibility policies. This policy aims to set out our responsibilities and requirements to uphold our CSR policies throughout our procurement and supply chain management, where we have control or influence.

Higgins believes in taking responsibility for the impact we have on the environment, our employees and all those affected by our activities.

Business Ethics

We will ensure integrity in all our business activities. We will be open, operate in an ethical manner at all times and be open and transparent in our communications and dealings with all those affected by our supply chain activities. We will operate under fair contract conditions and will fulfil the payment terms and contract conditions agreed with our partners.

Environmental Sustainability

Higgins will take into account the environmental impact and performance of goods and services when making purchasing decisions.

- We will seek to reduce waste by monitoring and reviewing the amount, type and manner in which materials are purchased. We will encourage off site manufacture and innovative products and practices to help minimise waste.
- We will strive to reduce our carbon footprint by purchasing goods with low embodied carbon wherever practical
- We will seek to specify goods which have low in use water and energy consumption
- We will seek to minimise the use of materials with a hazardous content wherever practical
- We will specify and purchase all timber based products from certified legal and sustainable chain of custody sources.
- We will expect our supply chain to have or be developing an environmental policy that operates in compliance with best practice and local laws.
- We expect our supply chain to manage their own environmental impacts and to work with us to achieve our environmental targets, reducing waste wherever possible.
- We will operate in accordance with our BSI accredited ISO 14001 Environmental Management System.
- We will seek to reduce waste to landfill through a policy of re-use, recycling and waste segregation.
- We will support the Halving Waste to Landfill Commitment.


Procurement

Higgins recognise that success depends on building strong partnerships with our customers, the communities we work in and our supply chain

- We will where practical maximise the benefits to the local community by working with our partners to encourage recruitment of local labour and by sourcing local goods and services, recognising the benefit this brings to ourselves, the workforce, communities and the environment.
- We will seek to purchase local goods and services to help reduce the impact of transport and our carbon footprint.
- We will work with local agencies and our supply chain to help establish opportunities for training and apprenticeships and to promote career progression.
- We will work with our supply chain to establish service level agreements that are fair and clear.
- We will require all our subcontractors to hold the appropriate Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards and actively encourage further training through robust Health & Safety practices on all our projects.
- We expect all our suppliers and subcontractors to demonstrate a commitment to ethical working practices, fair wages and working hours and to operate strict policies of equal opportunities and diversity.
- We expect our supply chain to treat their employees and subcontractors fairly and with respect and no less fairly than those we operate ourselves.
- We expect our supply chain to share our commitment to health and safety and to operate robust policies and procedures that put the health and safety of all those affected by their operations at the heart of what they do.

Summary

Higgins Construction PLC will take all reasonable measures to ensure that our suppliers and subcontractors have processes in place to manage the environmental and social impact of our operations and we will work with our supply chain partners to help them to develop and operate best practice. We will ensure that all employees involved in procurement decisions have access to training and guidance in responsible procurement to ensure delivery of this policy and its principles.



For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Steve Leakey

Managing Director

August 2011