



# **Code of Conduct Policy**

## **Version 1.0**

## Letter from the CEO

Driving toward sustainability within the context of large, complex organizations challenges us to act in the interest of our fellow humans and the natural world, while keeping our own organization's financial interests or policy imperatives in mind. The Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council asks its Members to add a further dimension to that work, that of aligning your sustainable procurement strategies with other organizations', in order to scale the positive global impact of responsible procurement.

Because weighing these interests and evaluating our behavior against them can be challenging, we have developed the SPLC Code of Conduct found below, and ask all prospective and existing Members to commit to understanding and conforming with its requirements.

This Code of Conduct articulates a set of behaviors that SPLC expects of our stakeholders and ourselves, based on the precept of consistently supporting environmental protection, fair competition, transparency, diversity, equity and inclusion, health and safety, and clear and impartial governance; and modeling respect, openness, collaborative spirit, stakeholder consultation, integrity and transparency in our own actions.

Because no code can encompass every possible situation, the goal of this document is to articulate behaviors emblematic of the core values that underlie them. We expect all SPLC stakeholders - Members, employees, board members, sponsors, committee members, suppliers and partners - to not only follow the specific examples of behavior listed below, but to more broadly act in the collaborative and fair manner that they represent.

*Thank you, on behalf of our Member Community -*  
Sarah O'Brien, CEO

## SPLC Code of Conduct

As a Member of the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council, our organization hereby commits to support the mission<sup>[1]</sup> of the SPLC.

Furthermore, as a Member of the SPLC, our organization:

- Will strive to develop and support a strategic sustainable purchasing program for our organization that addresses critical economic, environmental and social sustainability impacts;
- Will strive to make full use of the SPLC's program offerings and resources to further our sustainable purchasing activities;
- Will participate in SPLC Member discussions and development opportunities (e.g. procurement guidance development, peer-to-peer engagement, etc.) to the extent we are able;
- Will share our experiences and insights with the SPLC Member community in ways that support ongoing sustainable purchasing activities and improvements;
- Will provide any baseline and annual reporting as may be required by the SPLC, adjusting to any changes in such reporting requirements that may occur from time to time;
- Will acknowledge the validity of all Member stakeholder perspectives, and respect SPLC's need to hear equally from all interested Members prior to making major decisions;
- Will respect the Chatham House Rule on sharing of experiences and learning in Member conversations, not sharing identifying details outside of the group directly involved in such a conversation;
- Will limit direct solicitation of SPLC Member business to events that are designed for making such connections, and not interject sales pitches into events or processes designed for shared learning and discussion free of marketing;
- Will not violate antitrust statutes by discussing pricing or other economic terms with purchasers or suppliers in any group settings;
- Will not make use of SPLC program offerings and resources in for-profit consulting activities we conduct, unless agreed in advance with SPLC management, credited to the SPLC and deployed pursuant to a formal agreement between the two parties;
- Will where possible advocate or advise my organization to advocate, for government policies that promote sustainable purchasing; and
- Will not advocate, nor advise my organization to advocate, for government policies that prevent or weaken any organization's ability to undertake sustainable purchasing.

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[1] The mission of the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council is to accelerate the transition to a prosperous and sustainable economy by supporting and recognizing institutions for strategic leadership in understanding and taking responsibility for all of the consequences of all of their goods and services spending.

In addition to agreeing that your organization and its Member Representatives will adhere to the specific Code of Conduct, we ask that in situations where the right course of action is unclear, you ask yourself the two questions below, and refrain from actions where the answer is NO.

Does this choice support SPLC's mission and the welfare of my fellow members?

Would I be comfortable with this choice being made public?

***My online consent to the SPLC Member Policies & Procedures Agreement conveys both my agreement to this policy and my commitment to communicate its requirements to Member Representative(s) of my organization that will participate in SPLC program(s) and/or any other SPLC activities during the term of our membership.***