

Co-operative Assistance Network Limited Ethical Procurement Policy and Implementation Strategy.

Aim

- To support the overall aim to assist the development of co-operatives and other social enterprises and
- To maximise the positive social and environmental impact and minimise the negative impact of social and environmental impact of CAN spending

Objectives

- To encourage and empower workers to consider co-operatives and social enterprises as potential suppliers when sourcing supplies of inputs of any kind and enable
- To encourage and empower workers to consider social impact of purchasing decisions
- To encourage and empower workers to consider the environmental impact of CAN spending

Implementations Strategy

1. Notify all workers that a premium of up to 10% on cost is acceptable in order to source supplies from a Co-operative or Social Enterprise
2. Notify all workers that a premium of up to 10% on cost is acceptable in order to source supplies from a source that demonstrates high ethical standards in trading and social responsibility
3. Notify all workers that a premium of up to 10% on cost is acceptable in order to source supplies that are produced in an environmentally conscious way
4. Support workers through making it clear that time can be taken to carry out research, consult with each other and consider their decisions.
5. Support workers through making it clear that there is no prescriptive policy preventing the most important strategy in sustainability (think about it).
6. Encourage workers to consider environmental impact involved in all purchasing decisions
7. Agenda for each Annual Conference to set improvement targets

Reporting and Monitoring

1. In order to ensure that this policy does not collapse under the strain of its own bureaucracy the reporting requirement is to notify Support Services of notable wins, describing the basis of the decision, the likely spend and the additional cost.
2. The Directors will review the evidence and report on progress to each General Meeting
3. The overall strategy to be reviewed at Annual Conference

Guidance Notes

1. The basic concept is that the CAN attitude to ethical sourcing is: think about it, learn about, share the learning.
2. Ethical sourcing takes a little extra thought, care, time and sometimes requires paying a premium which this strategy enables.
3. However there can be no magic formula provided by this policy, it has to remain a matter for self-responsibility.
4. This policy is to be implemented with reference to the CAN Environmental Policy and does not substitute for it.
5. This policy has to be implemented with due regard to CAN's financial and operational viability.

6. List of positive attributes we would like to encourage:
 - Democratic control
 - Fair trade
 - Employee or community ownership
 - Investment in the community
 - Ecological sustainability

7. List of activities that the co-operative does not wish to be involved in:
 - Human rights abuses
 - Anti-trade union activity
 - Arms trade
 - Animal experimentation
 - Bloodsports
 - Environmental destruction

Policy agreed in this form by General Meeting 28 April 2006