



Achieving sustainable procurement goals

How The FA is using BS 8903 to achieve its sustainability objectives in procurement

Challenge

The Football Association (The FA) consists of the Football Association (the governing body of the game in England); the National Football Centre Limited (the recently opened St George's Park training facility near Burton-upon-Trent); FA Learning Limited (the organization's educational arm); and Wembley National Stadium Ltd (which runs Wembley, the spiritual home of English football). Sustainable procurement remains a key objective, but The FA must also consider other issues that affect its business model.

Solution

The FA realizes the importance of developing a sustainable approach that makes both economic and environmental sense. Sustainability has been embraced as a positive challenge and is a core business objective. Formalizing its approach to environmental management in 2007, Wembley Stadium implemented an EMS (environmental management system) in 2008.

"Wembley's EMS has resulted in outstanding environmental and financial wins," explains Alex Horne, FA General Secretary.

"To demonstrate the FA commitment to environmental leadership we decided to develop EMSs for The FA and St George's Park. The continual improvement of our sustainability performance remains a priority."

After carrying out an extensive review of best practice tools, The FA chose BS 8903, which enables organizations to embed the principles of sustainable development into their procurement and supply chain activities.

The FA commitment to improving environmental performance is demonstrated through the establishment of its Green Team, which meets quarterly. It drives environmental strategy, sets and reviews environmental objectives, and ensures legislative compliance.

Led by FA Procurement Manager, Ian Fenwick, the Green Team's Sustainable Procurement Sub Group is responsible for developing the strategy for sustainable procurement and supporting the integration of sustainability across its procurement activities. "When developing our Group

procurement policy, a key objective was to ensure that sustainability issues informed our supplier selection and contract management processes, not just included simply as a box to be ticked," stresses Fenwick.

"At Wembley Stadium we've demonstrated that the benefits of working collaboratively with suppliers to address sustainability issues can be realized through financial savings and competitive advantages for our business. This model is now being used to deliver similar benefits across our organization."

Outcome

The FA is proud of its record on integrating sustainability into its procurement. It remains committed to making improvements to sustainability performance across its procurement activities. The FA is now aiming to have a more direct impact on improving the sustainability performance of its first and second tier suppliers.

To find out more about sustainable procurement please visit shop.bsigroup.com/bs8903