

About City of Mississauga

Mississauga is a municipality in Ontario, Canada. They currently have a Sustainable Procurement Policy that went into effect in January 2018. They are committed to making purchasing decisions based on the best overall value while considering sustainability to improve the social and environmental impacts of the procurement of goods and services.

Purpose of Internship

The purpose of the internship was to support the advancement of sustainable procurement initiatives within the City of Mississauga by obtaining information around supplier diversity and community benefits.

Sustainability Issues

- Municipalities want to add social value to the procurement process, but there is a lack of understanding on how they can do that.
- A defined process should be in place to ensure diverse-owned businesses are included in the procurement of goods and services within municipalities, especially with limited resources and support.
- There can be a mismatch between the procurement process of municipalities and the goals of environmental responsibility and social value objectives of local communities.

Key Takeaways

Pay Close Attention to Detail: The wording you pick to define and explain ideas needs to be chosen carefully. One word can change the entire meaning of the message you are trying to convey.

Be Prepared to be Challenged: When working in the public sector, there are many different perspectives to consider. Always be prepared to be challenged on your work and back it up with facts for support.

Take a Step Back: Researching and benchmarking sustainable procurement initiatives can be an overwhelming process, especially putting it into words. It helps to take a step back and focus on the basic concepts.

Major Projects

Bill S-211



- Summarized and provided clear direction on reporting requirements for municipalities.
- Monitored and benchmarked municipalities who submitted reports to understand reporting trends and expectations.

Supplier Diversity



- Benchmarked a variety of diverse supplier councils to understand city and supplier memberships.
- Connected with staff from different municipalities to understand their supplier diversity initiatives and whether diverse suppliers should be certified to bid on procurements.

Community Benefits



- Benchmarked community benefits initiatives in different municipalities to get clarity on how community benefits relate to municipal procurement.
- Recommended how the City of Mississauga can move forward with a community benefits framework.

Research Findings

- Four municipalities have reported on Bill S-211 voluntarily.
- Some municipalities are incorporating supplier diversity into the procurement process through Supply Chain Diversity Programs, requiring diverse suppliers to be certified by one of the diverse supplier councils.
- Municipalities often use sustainable procurement, social procurement, social value, and community benefits interchangeably to refer to the process of purchasing goods and services with Indigenous, ethical, economic, environmental, and social considerations.
- Difficult to compare sustainable procurement initiatives across different municipalities as each municipality has a specific set of goals that are based on the municipality's size and resources.