



Green Gown
Awards 2016



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Finalist's case study

The University of Manchester Sustainability Champion (Staff) Kevin Casey, Head of Procurement



About the project

Summary

Head of Procurement Kevin Casey has demonstrated commitment and leadership to sustainability both within the University and across the wider sector that is an example to all non-sustainability professionals. He has used his ability to influence and catalyse others to take sustainability into hard to reach areas of university operations. His willingness to share the approach he has developed with his team as well as practical resources has had a hugely positive impact that will continue to be evident for years to come.

Profile

- Higher Education
- 40,000 students (includes full and part time students)
- 12,000 staff
- Urban

The results

The problem

Procurement is generally beyond the scope of most institutional sustainability teams which means that getting a 'foot in the door' has historically been a challenge. Although procurement can play a significant role in sustainability this needs to be both understood and owned by the procurement teams themselves for it to become embedded meaningfully in process and practice.



The approach

Kevin has not only supported the Central Procurement Team enabling them to be pro-active in responding to the sustainability (Social Responsibility) agenda. This has meant allowing the whole team to really understand the role of sustainability in relation to procurement policy, process and practice. Kevin has then taken their learning and shared it with procurement colleagues across the sector, becoming a 'trusted messenger' talking about sustainability in ways that make sense to procurement professionals

Our goals

Our target has always been to demonstrate we are working at Level 5 on the Flexible Framework and can evidence the contribution that procurement makes in support of institutional social responsibility aspirations.

Obstacles and solutions

Getting 'buy' from the team	Used as an opportunity for team development
Clarifying ambitions	Used the Flexible Framework to keep us on track
Embedding across operations	Updated policy, process and practice



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Reaching devolved procurers	Updated webpages, created guidance for them and embedded in staff development programme to reach all staff
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Performance and results

The Central Procurement team now embed sustainability simply as part of core practice; understanding that responsible procurement is part of delivering excellent procurement. We will be able to demonstrate that we are working at Level 5 on the Flexible Framework early in 2017.

The future

Sharing your project

Presentations - I have freed up my own time as well as staff time within my team to contribute to sessions at conferences and events to share our story and provide training for colleagues: 5 events and over 250 attendees

Training - We have been a key partner in the development of a full staff training programme for 12,000 staff within the University. They will all be trained on Responsible Procurement, we are not aware of this level of staff engagement on procurement within HE anywhere in the world.

Supplier events – We are active in promoting Responsible Procurement amongst our key suppliers; This is a focus of our meetings with them and is the theme of our upcoming exhibition (November 2016) at which 40 suppliers will be represented. We have also held specific construction events where we introduced SME and Tier 2 suppliers to Responsible Procurement: 3 events and over 200 suppliers.

Supplier Action Plans - Our commitment to supplier engagement, which has manifested itself in the development of piloting the Supplier Engagement Tool for the HE sector, has meant we have helped over 400 of our suppliers develop their own sustainability action plans for free (90% are SMEs).

What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

Our Procurement Team in the Directorate of Finance take their commitment to our core goal of social responsibility very seriously. This award would recognise the important work they are doing to do to enhance social and environmental responsibility through our purchasing operations and communicate this more widely across the sector.

Further information

Kevin Casey, Head of Procurement, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

E: kevin.casey@manchester.ac.uk

T: 01612752789

W: www.manchester.ac.uk

Twitter: @OfficialUoM

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheUniversityOfManchester