



EAUC Annual Conference University of Leeds 23 – 25 March 2015

CHALLENGING CONNECTIONS

Incorporating the Student Sustainability Summit, Further Education Sustainability Summit and Transformational Leadership Summit

Exchange A9: Electronics Watch – the value in responsible procurement

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Conference Sponsor





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CHALLENGING CONNECTIONS

Electronics Watch: The value in responsible procurement.

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CarbonCredentials

Partnership and
Engagement



Introduction



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Electronics Watch – an example of how we identified value.

Number of different perspectives:

Procurement law

Institutional values

Education & research

You and your networks

Electronics Watch



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“Electronic watch is an independent monitoring organisation working to achieve respect for labour rights in the global electronics industry through socially responsible public purchasing in Europe.”

Why is it needed?

Examples of breaches of labour right



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Only 3.5% of workers in the South Korean electronics industry are represented by a Union.

Widespread reports of workers working up to 84 hour weeks.

Workers are often exposed to high levels of very toxic chemicals which are banned within the EU. Accidents are common.

Frequent reports of bonded labour.

A conflict with EU procurement ambitions



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Many public buyers aim to avoid harm to environment or violating workers rights

However, set up of electronics industry makes this very hard to achieve

Electronics watch - use the combined purchasing power of the EU (worth 94 billion euros in 2007).

Why important to University of Leeds?



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Identified as high risk area (sustainability impacts).

High expenditure – HPC, desktops & laptops

Very difficult to do anything by ourselves.

Partnership essential for us to have a real impact.

Identifying value - Procurement legislation



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EU public contracts directive 2014 – your friend.

Improved rules on social and environmental aspects, making it clear that:

- social aspects can now also be taken into account in certain circumstances (in addition to environmental aspects which have previously been allowed)
- contracting authorities can require evidence of social/environmental characteristics
- contracting authorities can refer to factors directly linked to the production process.

Procurement legislation



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Social & environmental impacts can be considered as part of the value of contract when awarding contracts.

There is also a duty on the contracting authority to investigate tenders it considers abnormally low and to **disregard those that are based on approaches in breach of international environmental or social law.**

How did this help us & how well do you know your purchasing team/teams?

The value for your institution



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The power of social media. News travels fast. Good or bad!

Responsible procurement is a key way to respond e.g. Fair ware/Fair Trade clothing

Institutional values – your culture, strategic decision making & aspirations.

A justification for sustainability & authority for making responsible choices.

Our values



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Taken from our website:

“Our values of professionalism, inclusiveness, integrity and community are at the heart of everything we do. We understand that what we do can have an impact on the wider community, which is why we take our social, economic and environmental responsibilities seriously.”

These values are at the foundation of our University and sustainability strategy.

They made the case for joining Electronics Watch for us!

Other University values



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“Responsibility - we aim to make a positive difference to the wider world and the future.”

“Valuing the rights, responsibilities and dignity of individuals through our commitment to equality and diversity.”

“Valuing probity and ethical behaviour”

“Social responsibility demands that all aspects of our activity should be sustainable.”

The value for education and research



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Sustainability literacy – to meaningfully engage our students in sustainability we need to meaningfully engage ourselves!

Opportunity to involve students in ‘real world’ challenges & ‘real world’ solutions



The value for education and research



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Many opportunities for research & applying research findings.

Research ethics

Why important to us?

Electronics are a key driver of our research. But we want it to be responsible.

We are embedding sustainability across University teaching. We can't do this and ignore our own 'knotty issues'

The value of your networks



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This is essential.

Find champions within senior management.

Use your internal networks, but appropriately. Aim to persuade not annoy.

Use your external networks – increase knowledge, support etc.

If buying through frameworks – purchasing consortia

The value for you



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Use your personal values – motivation!

My recent motivator? A TED talk by Matthieu Ricard
“How to let altruism be your guide”

For me & my colleagues the case for action was clear.
We wanted to sleep at night!

As professionals we have a range of tools to identify our
biggest impacts & persuade our institutions to take them
seriously.

Challenging Connections



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Challenging connections:

What is your key responsible procurement challenge?

How can you identify the value within this? Who can help you?