Social Impact Purchasing @ UBC

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Directed Study: Tyler Hawkins

01. Setup

A. Intro

The world of today is complicated, the challenges we face new, unprecedented: war, revolution, resource scarcity, population explosion, changing climate. Governments, institutions and corporations are scrambling to understand their roles in all of these challenges, to understand their responsibilities, their impacts in an age where wikileaks, social media journalism and ethical consumers have influence, small but significant and growing.

Public universities hold a challenging but privileged position in all of this as they partner political will with the profit motive and research.

The University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC, Canada has chosen to take a leadership role, to explore how far research and political will can lead society in moving toward *sustainability*, a term broadly defined to create and maintain the social, economic, and environmental needs of present and future generations. (EPA).

UBC has produced many initiatives to do so, many of them sustainability action initiatives and many of them monitoring/ compliance schemes.

I was curious as to how the University of British Columbia had integrated social sustainability into its sustainability leadership, and so chose one area of campus sustainability as a sort of case study to look as ways we might improve, increase or complement leadership efforts toward social sustainability: UBC's purchasing program, Payment and Procurement Services (PPS).

UBC Payment and Procurement Services aims to help faculty and administration on campus to leverage bulk purchasing in the interest of economic efficiency, lower prices, and better environmental/ social impact. Purchases on campus total 600,000 individual purchases, $250 million, the third largest line item in the university's budget. Top categories include (in order): Professional Fees (*consultants),* Other Operational expenditure (including shipping, food services support, pet food etc...), Scientific Supplies, Library Acquisitions, and Travel. In order to integrate social sustainability concerns into purcahsing, PPS uses a Supplier Code of Conduct and Sustainability Report Card to enforce and measure, respectively, supplier progress on key goals. Faiza Wilson was my key contact within PPS. Her job title is Category Management Analyst, and this includes strategizing bulk spending for economic and environmental aims for individual purchases between $3,500 and $50,000. In this aim she has overseen several studies concluding in bulk green purchases (such as wheat paper) and initiatives such as one currently aiming at reducing waste by encouraging on campus supply re-use.

Currently, to the best of my knowledge, she is the only UBC faculty member to work on encouraging sustainable purchasing across all departments and programs.

Why PPS? Other options were considered: IMANT, UBC's Investment Management Trust (independent pension/ other funds investment management group); UBC Food services; and UBC Athletics. In the end it was decided that PPS would be most accessible due to an already established relationship with Faiza Wilson, Category Management Analyst. IMANT would have been a fascinating study, but had published less, and its arms length independence from the University was seen as potentially prohibitive. Food Services was seen as potentially too decentralized in its sustainability initiatives, and Athletics a relatively smaller purchaser. It is interesting to note that at the moment (November, 2013) Common Energy UBC (a student lead general climate action club) with the support of The Ubyssey (our student paper) is leading an initiative to push IMANT to divest funds from fossil fuel industries.

Accessibility	Personnel	Materials	Sustainability Focus
PPS	✓	✓	✓
IMANT	x	x	✓
Food Services	✓	x	✓
Athletics	✓	x	x

Why myself? As a social scientist, environmental economics and international development studies student, I was curious as to the research/ monitoring side of *social* sustainability in particular. In many ways we have a clear understanding of how to measure and improve environmental impacts, we understand the toxicological and atmospheric insulation characteristics of burning a gallon of gasoline: these are principally chemical and physical problems. But social impacts are much less understood: standards of living largely subjective, human rights a relatively new field, with its own challenges, difficult but essential. Personally, I feel the integration of rational decision making (RDM in social science circles) is the only way to lead these projects, employing the *you can only manage that which you can measure* philosophy on sustainability we then must find accounting schemes which measure social sustainability impacts in our policies, in our consumption etc... A course on life cycle assessment, essentially a comprehensive, standardized, scientific accounting scheme inspired this project, and its younger partner *Social Life Cycle Assessment,* represents an ideal application.

B. Research Question

What recommendations may be made to improve UBC's leadership in social sustainability via the implementation and bettering of policies and tools used by UBC Purchasing and Procurement Services.

C. Methodology

This report will read roughly chronologically, starting with historical vision, transitioning into current action, and finally discussing potential future action/ next steps.

01. The first section discusses UBC's commitments to social sustainability through purchasing, via A) UBC's historically stated vision, goals, policy, applicable legisled standards and B) current action resulting from all of those initiatives.

02. Second, I'll look into social impact purchasing initiatives far and wide: in universities, in certification standards, and accounting schemes including Social Life Cycle Assessment. Here I hope to find UBC's next steps, future progress into social impact purchasing.

03. I'll conclude with a gap analysis between the gold standard social sustainability reporting/ accounting scheme and UBC's current tools for enforcing and measuring social sustainability, Payment and Procurement Services' current Supplier Code of Conduct and Sustainability Report Card, respectively.

The primary tool of analysis guiding this report is literature review. Sources drew primarily from policies, legislation, goals, plans and annual reports published on the ubc.ca family of websites, in addition to documents published by The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry/ the UN Environmental program on Social Life Cycle Assessment.

The final product, the gap analysis, takes the format of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheed, available with this document.

02. UBC Social Impact Purchasing Review

A. UBC Sustainability: Vision and Goals.

Vision

The University of British Columbia's Sustainability Vision can be traced back to 1990 and the signing of the *Talloires Declaration*(sustain.ubc.ca, talloires) . This declaration committed the university to integrate environmental sustainability into curriculums, policies, campus activity, and publicity via collaboration and alongside some 440 universities worldwide. The following year, representatives of UBC met with representatives from top leaders in business, banking, government, NGOs and 33 international universities to sign the *Halifax Declaration*: again committing to sustainability leadership and this time incorporating social goals within the push for more ethical environmental development.

In 1997 the University Board of Governors (Vancouver campus) approved Policy No. 5 on Sustainable Development, the first of its kind among Canadian universities (aashe.org). It outlined general goals and processes for improving sustainable development including aims for specific areas of environmental impact, as well as: improving monitoring via life cycle costing, the pursuit of cost savings through sustainable practices, alongside reiterated support for the aims of the Halifax declaration (including social impact). BOG No. 5 also highlighted the importance of the

roles of the Director of Sustainable Development, SEEDS, the Sustainability Advisory Committee and directed the University to author a sustainability Action Plan. Finally, BOG. 5 described the university's intent to become a leader in sustainability, in local and global community contexts.

In 1998 UBC opened the campus sustainability office. In 2008, UBC became one of six founding signatories to the 'University and College Presidents' Climate Statement of Action for Canada', committing UBC to create a plan for reducing GHG emissions and working on other sustainability goals. In 2010 that plan was published as the UBC Climate Action Plan outlining four main sustainability commitments: UBC would become a net positive energy producer, a community partner/ leader for sustainable change, a living laboratory for demonstration of sustainability leadership, and an accountant for the full costs of decision making, including economic, environmental, and social sustainability.
(All: aashe.org).

It should also be noted that the UBC Plan: Place and Promise (originally published in 2010), asserted UBC's commitment to environmental and social sustainability, if not explicitly leadership in these areas.

Timeline

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Goals

Included in the 2010 Climate Action Plan (sustain.ubc.ca) were 21 sustainability goals for business travel and procurement. These included goals under five categories: governance, operations, funding, engagement, and research. Individual goals included, for example:
- listing/ promoting preferred vendors
- promotion of sustainable products in campus retail outlets
- investigating campus Craigslist type systems for recycling/ reselling used supplies
- eliminating the use of virgin paper (non recycled)
- implementing industry standards of impact (*Energy Star, EPEAT, etc…)*
- conducting *life-cycle analyses* to document environmental impacts of 5 high volume purchased products.

Three Climate Action Plan Annual Reports (2010, 2011, & 2012) have been published reviewing efforts to meet these goals (available at sustain.ubc.ca' s Annual Reports page: http://sustain.ubc.ca/our-commitment/strategic-plans-policies-reports/annual-reports). Additionally, yearly reviews are conducted in the areas of: operational sustainability, transportation, carbon neutrality, and sustainability strategy and vision (also available on the aforementioned site). The content of these reviews will be discussed in the following section of this paper.

The October 2011 UBC Sustainability Strategy Report (available online: http://sustain.ubc.ca/.../annual-reports) committed the university to weighting sustainability concerns at a minimum of 10% in the RFP (*request for proposal*) bidding process for supplier purchasing of products/ services over $50,000. Further, it asserted the importance of the 2009 *Sustainable Purchasing Guide* (to be discussed in the next section), in guiding purchases of less than $50,000.

In personal interviews, Faiza Wilson, the current Category Management Analyst for UBC Purchasing and Procurement Services, has expressed an additional goal for purchases of products/ services below $50,000: in 5 years, 80% of purchased products/ services should carry demonstrate-able leadership toward environmental and social sustainability.

B. Policy

Here I'll attempt to comprehensively define the legal tools and institutional policies which UBC Payment and Procurement Services follows as in their pursuit of the goals outlined above, starting with federal and provincial legal obligations and continuing with mandated campus policy.

Legal Obligations

International

International precedents for environmental sustainability have been well defined and publicized, chief among them, the Kyoto Protocols for green house gas emissions reductions. Social sustainability is a concept less well defined. Its legal pillars can be considered to be associated with the international human rights movement (*IHR*). Broadly speaking, modern IHR began with the Nurembourg trials in the 1940's post WWII and with the establishment of the UN Declaration of Human Rights (*UNDHR)*. Article 25 of that document defines the right to an adequate standard of living, for example. The 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) treatises made violations of the UNDHR persecutable, both through country to country challenges and domestically through challenge to ratified domestic equivalent law. Canada has signed and ratified (domestically enforced) both of these treaties. The UN International Labour Organization (*ILO)* and its conventions (internationally agreed upon standards that are ratified domestically) represents another example of a human

rights commitment that Canada has signed, ratified, and become obligated to uphold and with regards to institutional purchasing policy.

These agreements hold power in their mere existence and the obligation of Canadian institutions to respect them. However, it must be said that pursuing remedy for violations of international human rights has historically been difficult and remains so. (Steart) These agreements will be discussed more extensively with regards to the origins of Social LCA in section 2.

National/Federal

The 1982 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms outlines political rights reserved by Canadian citizens and civil rights granted to everyone in Canada. They include rights which may be considered to be associated with workers or labour rights (such as those associated with the manufacturing of products consumed by a university): freedom of association, assembly, expression, press, religion, thought, from discrimination, and the right to vote among many others. They (reasonably) do not extend to individuals outside of the country who may manufacture goods to be purchased by Canadians. (Canadian Dept. of Justice Online: http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/Const/) Enforcement is generally guided by the Canadian Human Rights Comission, and criminal cases brought before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. (The BC Human Rights Coalition).

To date I'm not aware of challenges/ updates/ or clarifications to either of these pieces of legislation with regards to intuitional purchasing.

It should be noted, however that the Federal Government has a Policy on Green Procurement which seeks to lead all branches of government in preferential purchasing of *environmentally* (contains no mention of socially) ethical products. That policy can be found on Public Works and Services Canada's website (Available currently here: http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ecologisation-greening/achats-procurement/politique-policy-eng.html).

Provincial

Provincially, The BC Human Rights Code (of 1973) defines responsibilities of employers, service providers, all provincially regulated businesses and agencies including universities to respect assorted individual freedoms and rights. These freedoms and rights include freedom from discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age etc…, the right to a fair wage, to form unions etc… It is available at bclaws.ca: http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_96210_01 and its enforcement mechanism is principally cases brought before the BC Human Rights Tribunal, though cases can be made all the way up the Canadian court system to the Supreme Court. (BC Human Rights Coalition: http://www.bchrcoalition.org/files/process.html)

UBC Purchasing Policy

UBC Payment and Procurement Services commits to a number of ethics policies which relate to socially sustainably purchasing. These include:

- **The Supply Chain Management Association of BC's** *Code of Ethics*
  05. Environmental and Social Responsibilities:
  "Members will be cognizant of the social rights extended to all people, including the conventions of the International Labour Organization with respect to labour standards"
  (http://www.scmanational.ca/images/stories/join_pmac_pdf/Code-of-Ethics-en-2012-color.pdf)

- The **UBC Board of Governors'** *Policy on Purchasing (122)*
  Principal 1.3.1.5. Community and Environmental Leadership:
  "Decision making factors may be weighted to acknowledge local business development and the University's role in environmental leadership."
  (http://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/files/2010/08/policy122.pdf).

- UBC **PPS'** *Principals of Sustainability for Supply Management*
  Principal 3: Environmental Stewardship:
  02. "To comply with legislated requirements and to exceed expectations where it delivers best value
  05. "take a cradle-to-cradle approach when developing criterion…
  06. "Ensure equity of socio/economic benefits where there is a potential environmental impact."
  (http://supplymanagement.ubc.ca/about-us/principles-sustainability-supply-management)

- **PPS's Supplier Code of Conduct** (July 2008)
  Outlines 22 specific standards PPS requires of suppliers in terms of social impact standards: legal & ethical responsibilities, child labour, forced labour, disciplinary practices, freedom of association, wages and benefits, hours of work, discrimination, health and safety, and environmental commitment. Metrics for proven adoption are quantitative and qualitative, some more explicit than others.
  The stated enforcement mechanism apparently consists of the PPS Director fielding complaints brought by faculty, students etc… and auditing suppliers on a case by case basis.
  (http://supplymanagement.ubc.ca/sites/supplymanagement.ubc.ca/files/uploads/documents/Supplier%20Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf)

Additionally, UBC PPS has published **The UBC Sustainable Purchasing Guide** for internal and external, campus wide use.

Of particular interest to this study is the *Supplier Code of Conduct* and the *Sustainable Purchasing Guide*.

C. Current Action

Climate Action Plan Goals
Since the Climate Action Plan was published in 2010, three yearly reviews have been conducted to review progress on its goals including the 21 which pertain to Business Travel and Purchasing. Of these 21 goals: 1 was completed ahead of schedule

(eliminate virgin paper use), 2 missed their 1 year deadline (5 life cycle assessments, campus wide waste audit) but are otherwise on track, 1 has been removed, 1 reevaluated and the rest were designated in progress or some such thing similarly, leaving us roughly 80% on track. A solid B.

Noteable efforts which fall under the Climate Action Plan initiatives include:

- The introduction of wheat paper via a SEEDS triple bottom line assessment.
- The reuseitubc.ca website: an on campus *Craigslist* type website dedicated to product reuse/ reselling and anticipating growth.
- The UBC Buysmart Preferred Suppliers listing available here: http://supplymanagement.ubc.ca/ubcbuysmart/suppliers/preferred. Of note: 26 out of 88 suppliers listed, 30%, carry a third party sustainability certification or initiative. This means that Faiza's 80% goal may be ambitious, when measured in these terms, but its also met the university's climate action plan goal for sharing preffered vendors has been met.

Purchasing and Procurement Services' Supplier Code of Conduct & The Supplier Sustainability Report Card

Faiza Wilson, the current PPS category analyst lists sustainability strategy in her position's responsibilities stated that she is not aware of any supplier audits having taken place in her time at UBC (two years). Google and campus paper archive searches also returned no results. This might suggest two possibilities: A) that either all suppliers meet the Code of Conducts social impact standards, or B), and perhaps more likely, that the Code of Conduct has not been widely used in advancing the Universities goals for social impact through purchasing.

Mrs. Wilson has authored a separate Supplier Report Card to begin surveying suppliers on their mostly environmental but also social impact initiatives, taken quarterly.

Faiza's goal of 80% of sourcing coming from suppliers with sustainability certifications or goals, appears to be quite realistic when measured by sustainability initiatives. Quick review of the baseline study of 15 top suppliers, finds that approximately 65% answered yes to having specific programs in place or report that they meet UBC's quantitative goals.

It would seem that these two documents attempt to address two tenants of sustainability: environmental and social, and that a policy expanded to include environmental metrics or a report card expanded to include social metrics, might prove a useful step for PPS in their quest toward sustainable purchasing. I'll touch on this in greater detail later.

03. General Social Impact Purchasing

In looking outside of UBC for future steps I thought it useful to first consider other Universities with similar initiatives. I then proceed to look into general social impact purchasing initiatives, namely Social Life Cycle Assessment. Here I detail what I found and what I think relevant to UBC's initiatives.

A. Campus purchasing policy at large.

AASHE Stars
AASHE, the *Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education,* is an organization based in Denver, Colorado that helps universities and also business's, NGOs and governments world wide advance institutional sustainability. They do so through a standardized reporting resource (STARS) and professional development and networking.

In 2011 (the last report published online) UBC received an AASHE Stars Gold rating with a score of 65.09. (Found here: https://stars.aashe.org/institutions/university-of-british-columbia-bc/report/2011-08-02/). UBC Purchasing received a score of 3.53 out of 7.5 for work in 6 categories. UBC received full credit for considering local businesses and performance on the Supplier Code of Conduct in the competitive bidding process. However, UBC received no credit in two categories:
 1) Computer purchasing 0 of 2 credits: AASHE's proffered standard of green purchasing in this area is EPEAT, which notably does not include social sustainability metrics. Regardless, at the time of reporting and to date, to the best of my knowledge, UBC has no EPEAT program, while 92 other universities in north America do (http://www.epeat.net/about-epeat/environmental-benefits/, http://www.epeat.net/participants/purchasers/ - education).
2) Considering historically underutilized businesses: 0 of .25 credits. UBC answered "no" to the question of "does the institution seek to support historically underutilized businesses, minority-owned businesses, and women owned-businesses?" This is perhaps a metric that ought to be considered for inclusion in the Supplier Code of Conduct, but perhaps deserves more discussion.

Based upon these findings I recommend that UBC Payment and Procurement Services explore the development of an EPEAT purchasing standard for electronics.

Campus Green Report Card
In 2010, Rockerfeller Philanthropy Advisors published a similar, now discontinued, campus sustainability report titled the College Sustainability Report Card. This report echoed the AASHE finding which emphasized UBC's lack of EPEAT program as a hurdle for UBC's sustainability leadership.
http://www.greenreportcard.org/

It also discussed tools used by universities in advancing sustainable purchasing. One tool is the University of California at Davis's UCD Buy program, effectively a cragislist/ ebay site for intercampus reuse/ reselling. (Site here: http://purchasing.ucdavis.edu/methods/ucdbuy.cfm) I wasn't able to access to software or to contact site administrators to inquire as to its effectiveness/ use (due to time constraints) however I would imagine the general inquires phone number listed on that site might be useful.

Others Potential Resources

theForo.com
Here I feel it might be useful to mention a recent UBC student startup which aims to facilitate inter campus reselling/ reuse. Foro is currently targeted at students who find Craigslist.org too geographically broad and scam ridden, rather they can use this application (available online, or on mobile platforms) and buy and sell to people they have something more in common with. I would imagine this platform could be adapted or used to effectively target campus faculty as well, an initiative Faiza Wilson is currently leading. Find it online at theforo.com.

The Green School (GRNSCH) Listserve.
The Brown Green School email list serve is another informal/ peer to peer resource that universities use for sharing sustainability initiatives/ resources. Archives date back some 21 years and cover a wide range of topics. Unfortunately I've found virtually nothing directly addressing social impact purchasing, but that isn't to say it doesn't exist or that this resource couldn't be useful. Find it here:
http://www.lsoft.com/scripts/wl.exe?SL1=GRNSCH-L&H=LISTSERV.BROWN.EDU

B. Social Impact Accounting
The second area I looked to for potential resources/ tools for progressing social impact purchasing at UBC was third party social sustainability impact accounting schemes/ certifications. UBC uses several extensively already: Fairtrade coffee, Forest Stewardship Council paper etc... but there is a need for awareness of others on the horizon and for products not currently certified. Furthermore such review provides context and inspiration for furthering UBC's purchasing strategy generally. I'll start by describing the findings of the largest review of third party certifications to date (and to my best knowledge) and then describe one new impact accounting certification scheme which attempts to address the shortfalls of many of the others and as described in the review.

A. The State of Sustainable Initiatives Review
In 2010 the Sustainable Commodity Initiative (comprised of sponsors from the United Nations Conference on Trade and development and an assortment of private environmental research/ consulting groups) published *The State of Sustainable Initiatives Review, the SSI* (currently available through the UBC libraries website). This report reviewed ten well established commercial third party sustainability certifications for their degree of obligation to a comprehensive list of social, environmental and economic sustainability indicators, as well as measures of administrative effectiveness: income, industry scope, and geographic scope/ participation. The certification schemes focused primarily on coffee, chocolate and forestry product certifications and yet it is the most comprehensive comparative certifications study I am aware of and, I feel, likely provides insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the field of sustainability certifications in general. The following figures discuss their findings in terms of social and economic impact requirements.

Figure 2.8: Social criteria indexes, degree of obligation. (See Appendices II and III for source calculations).
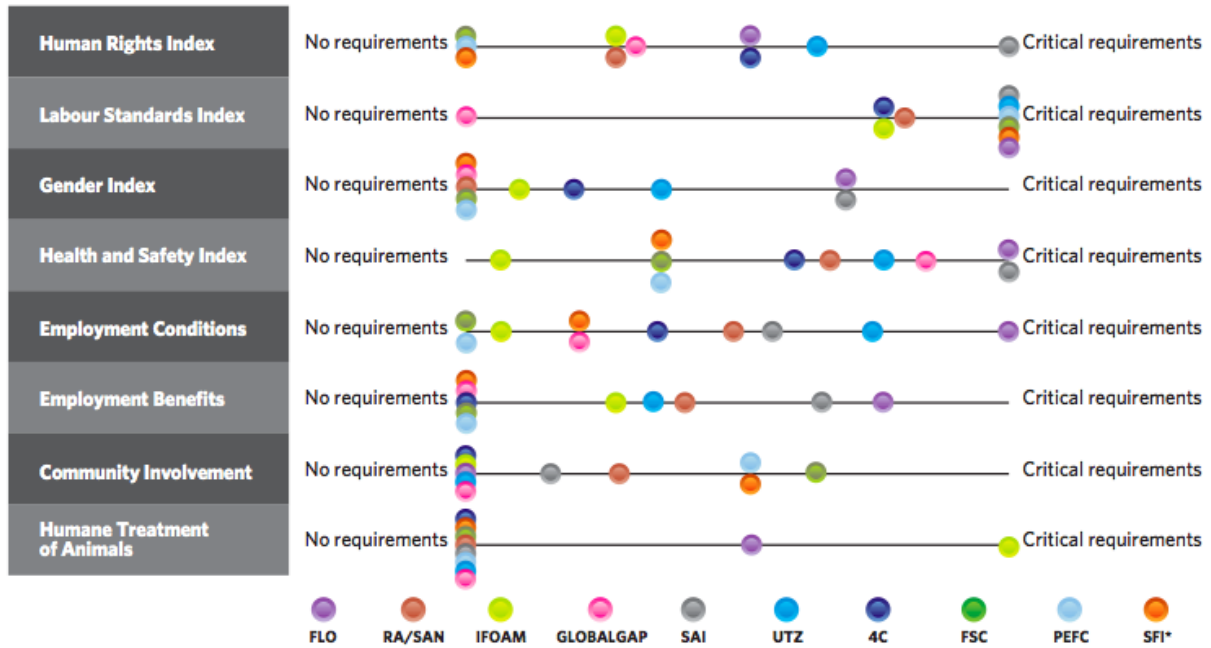
Figure 2.10: Economic criteria indexes, degree of obligation. (See Appendices II and III for source calculations).
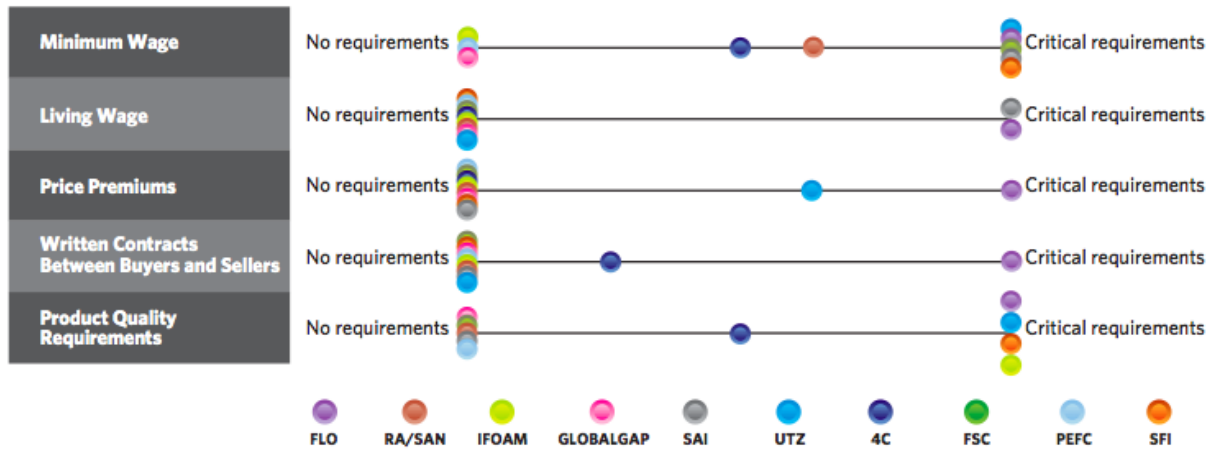
For reference, the ten certifications included were:
1. The Fair Trade Labelling Organization: Agricultural products and misc. consumer products, sports balls included. Global
2. Rainforest Alliance/Sustainable Agriculture Network *RA/ SAN:* agricultural, forestry and tourism, South America
3. The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements *IFOAM* (agricultural products, global)
4. GlobalGap (agricultural products, Europe)
5. Social Accountability International *SAI* (all sectors, New York)
6. UTZ: Coffee, cocoa, tea, Rooibos. Germany
7. 4C Association (Coffee, Germany)
8. Forest Stewardship Council *FSC* (forestry, global)
9. Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification scheme *PEFC* (forestry, Europe)
10. Sustainable Forestry Initiative *SFI*: Forestry, US

The study concluded that social impacts were notably weak across third party certifications, highlighting significant need for improvement. Social criteria commonly included core International Labour Organization Conventions, health, safety and employment conditions. However, gender, employment benefits, community involvement, and humane treatment of animals, were not often included. Little to no economic criteria existed. What did included product quality requirements and minimum wages, while living wages, price premiums and written contracts were underrepresented. Of the organizations reviewed, 65% reported compliance with the International Standards' Organization standard 65 on administration (now: ISO/IEC 17065:2012) which sought to ensure that product certification organizations conduct certifications that are impartial, consistent with international standards, and based on objective testing. (via: http://www.oxebridge.com/emma/?page_id=662). When seeking out legitimate third party certification, compliance with ISO 65/ ISO/IEC 17065:2012 would seem to be a valuable standard.

I recommend that all certifications honoured by UBC be ISO 65 compliant and that ought to be included in sustainable purchasing policy.

In conclusion, this report highlighted the need for comprehensive criteria on impacts. While it may be unrealistic to demand compliance with all criteria, it would seem pertinent to include criteria above and beyond that which is currently commonly used so that sustainable purchasing may only be bettered. Social and environmental impacts in particular should be arguably included more so, and arguably entire life cycle impacts should be included.

The entire review is available online, through the International Institution for Sustainable Development website, here: http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2010/ssi_sustainability_review_2010.pdf

B. Social Life Cycle Assessment, S-LCA

As stated, many existing sustainability certifications fall short of consideration of the social and economic impacts, as well as impacts produced throughout the entire life-cycle of the product.

Social Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA) is a new accounting method which attempts to address all the shortcomings of the previous schemes. Here I'll provide a quick description of the project, its history and present action, and the scheme itself, its contents/ criteria etc..

Quick History/ Context
In 1993, SETAC, The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (a *not for profit, global network of experts from academia, industry and various governments aimed at sharing research on environmental problems*) published the first guidelines on Environmental Life Cycle Assessment. This impact accounting scheme attempted to quantify the environmental impacts produced along a product's entire life-cycle, focusing on chemical impacts into land, water and air. (http://www.setac.org/).

In 2003, and with the support of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), it was recognized that looking solely at physical/environmental impacts was insufficient: *"The use of LCA is hampered in developing countries [economies] clearly due to lack of expertise, data etc., but also due to the inability of LCA to engage in developing countries key issues… poverty eradication together with other social aspects such as employment rates, wages, accidents, working conditions and human rights."* (Page 18, SLCA Guidelines: available here: http://socialhotspot.org/publications/and here http://socialhotspot.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/guidelines-sLCA1.pdf). Therefore a task force was established to expand Life Cycle Assessments scope to work toward a *triple bottom line*: including not just environmental, but social and economic concerns. Additionally, it should be of interest to note that this push for better inclusion of developing country concerns was accompanied by an aim to apply this scheme to measuring impacts in the developing countries which produce consumer products.

In 2006, UNEP and SETAC jointly published the document *Guidelines for Social Life Cycle Assessment of Products* outlining this new accounting scheme.

Social Life Cycle Assessment
S-LCA, as it was called, introduced a complementary impact accounting scheme for measuring quantitative and qualitative social impacts of projects to local communities, value chain actors, consumers, workers and society at large.

Origins: S-LCA and SIA
Social LCA built upon the existing strengths and weaknesses of other currently available commercial third party impact accounting schemes as listed above and also drew significantly upon the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) accounting scheme in particular.

SIA was developed in the 1970s along side the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, used widely for assessing the impacts of large scale policies and development projects. Particular attention in this process is given to stakeholder values and concerns. Versions of the process have been authored, adapted mandated and used extensively by organizations such as the US Department of Agriculture (the USDA) and the World Bank. Another example of a high profile application is the highly controversial Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline, to be decided upon partially by Canadian federal EIA and SIA by at the end of this month (December 31st, 2013).

Typically SIA does not focus on the entire life cycle of a product/ project, instead it tends to focus on project development and or the use phase.
SETAC and UNEP highlight this difference as the primary reason that Social Life Cycle Assessment's guidelines have been authored outside of the traditional SIA/ EIA guidelines, though the two processes may share similar input data.
(Sources: Guidelines document, and World Banks page on social analysis: http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALDEV/0,,menuPK:3177455~pagePK:64168427~piPK:64168435~theSitePK:3177395,00.html).

The S-LCA Guidelines offer this diagram to distinguish between S-LCA, E-LCA, SIA, and also Corporate Social Responsibility, a field of research I will not discuss in this report, but a noteable tertiary contender.
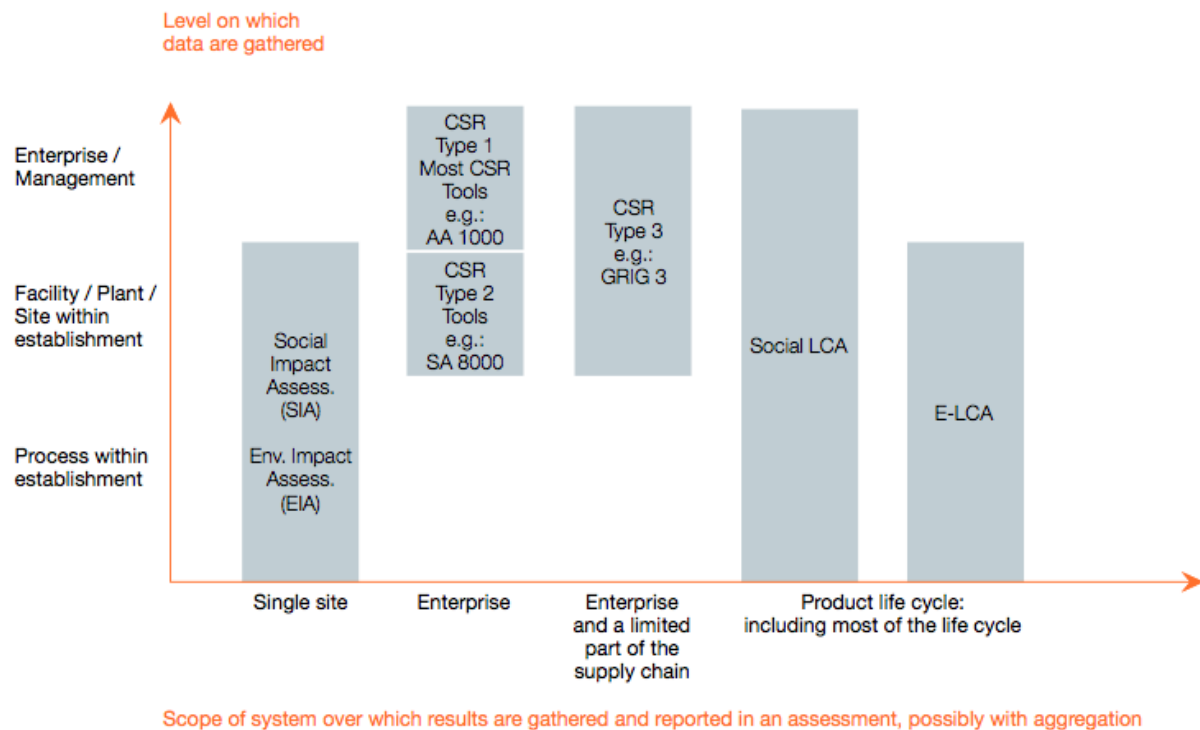
Figure 4 – Scope of CSR and impact assessment techniques of Enterprises and their Product

(Page 41, Guidelines)

Sources: **International Conventions and Agreements**
Instead of following the SIA/ EIA guidelines, S-LCA sought to standardize its own process. In doing so, the selection of categories of impacts was of paramount importance.

S-LCA drew its core impact categories from many of the globally agreed upon conventions and standards of human well-being and human rights. Here I'll summarize the important aspects of these agreements, including brief background descriptions, their core standards and enforcement mechanisms, if they exist. In the following sections I'll outline the standards which I see fit for inclusion in UBC's social impact purchasing policy. Note that all but the Millennium Development Goals lack quantitative metrics for goal monitoring/ achievement. Rather, they rely on various international human rights courts to decide if compliance with legal/ philosophical language and terminology is sufficient. Some courts, the European Court of Human Rights for example have been quite effective (deciding thousands of cases a year), others (The Inter American Court of HR, and the International Criminal Court) less so (cumulatively deciding 12 or less cases/ year). (James Stewart).

- **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (The UNDHR, 1948): the first major international agreement on a definition of modern, inalienable human rights, though it did not come with an enforcement mechanism. Included: the principles of dignity, liberty, equality, rights to individuals; rights to groups; spiritual, public and political rights; and economic, social and cultural rights.
  http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/

- **The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** (the *ICCPR)* **and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** (the *ICESCR)* treaties of 1966. These transformed many of the core ideas of the UNDHR into enforceable international and national legislation. Their core principals included: Freedom from slavery (ICCPR article 8); the right to liberty, security of person, and freedoms from to arbitrary arrest or detention (ICCPR art. 9); the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion (ICCPR art. 18); the freedom of association (ICCPR Art. 22); the right to work (ICESCR art. 6); the rights to form and join trade unions (ICESCR art. 8); the right of everyone to be free from hunger (ICESCR Art 11). (Reference: James Stewart).

- **The Millennium Development Goals:** In September of 2000, world leaders adopted the eight goals focused on human rights in the developing world, put forth by the UN Development Group and to be completed on national scales by 2015. It galvanized nations world wide behind one of the largest pushes in history to eradicate poverty and its sources. One might suggest they represent international development's parallel to the Kyoto Protocols. Its goals included: eradication of hunger and poverty (goal 1); achieving universal primary education (2); promoting gender equality and empowering women (3); reducing child mortality (4); improving maternal health (5); combating HIV/AIDs, Malaria and other diseases (6); Ensuring Environmental Sustainability (7); developing a global partnership for development. Examples of metrics for compliance include: "Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than $1 a day (1)", "Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate (4)." Data sources are also incorporated and compliance is monitored by task forces assigned to each goal and comprised of academics, politicians, and private sector partners.
  (http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/index.htm)

- **International Labour Organization's Fundamental Conventions:**
  The International Labour Organization is the UN agency responsible for monitoring and improving labour rights. It publishes conventions which together compose arguably the most comprehensive list of labour rights standards worldwide. When conventions are agreed upon and published, member states chose to whther or not ratify (legislate domestically) in support. The fundamental conventions Include: freedom of association (no. 87); the right to collective bargaining & the right to organize (no. 98); freedom from forced labour (No. 29); freedom from child labour (No. 138); freedom from employment discrimination (No. 100, 110). Interestingly: Canada opts out of two of these: 138 on the minimum age (15 years old), and 98, on the right to organize and to collective bargaining. Controversially, the US has opted

into only two of these fundamental conventions. Further the ILO does not enforce, it can field complaints, but relies on other courts to pursue/ litigate concerns. (http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_095895.pdf)

C) The authors of the S-LCA Guidelines highlight the fact that many of these conventions are already legally mandated in most countries, and so may be seen as a minimum standards which must be expanded upon (" floors rather than ceilings" (pg 48)) for the aspirations of S-CLA. I would argue however, that given the efficacy of the major courts in monitoring/ upholding these standards, they do form a realistic yet aspirational basis of core standards.

S-LCA: Process
The S-LCA process is dictated largely by the International Standards Organizations standards on Environmental Life Cycle Assessment: ISO 14040 and 14044.

The process begins with definitions of goal and scope of analysis, including the functional unit (1 shirt, 1 cubic metre of material used x times or for y years) and system boundaries (which life cycle processes are included: extraction, production, use etc…) . The next step, inventory analysis, collects data and provides evidence verification for impacts. The third step selects impact categories, classifies inventory data by impact categories and characterizes the results in each category under common units (CO_2 equivalency for example for green house gasses). The final step is interpretation/ conclusions of results with regards to the aim of the study. Data quality assessment is built in primarily via peer review.

S-LCA looks at five primary stakeholders: local communities, value chain actors, consumers, workers and society at large which are impacted by 6 major impact categories: human rights, working conditions, health and safety, cultural heritage, governance and socio-economic repercussions. All told, there are 31 subcategories under the 6 major categories, measured by qualitative and quantitave indicators, and described and justified in the *S-LCA Methodological Sheets* document (published by SETAC and UNEP and currently available here: http://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/S-LCA_methodological_sheets_11.11.13.pdf)

I'll discuss the specifically included categories in my final section: a brief comparison of the S-LCA's included standards and UBC Purchasing and Procurement Services' standards.

The Social Hotspot Database
Currently the most accessibly tool for the use of S-LCA, aside from contracted individual studies, is the not for profit New Earth's *Social Hotspot Database*. It compiles existing LCA data from sources such as the Higg Index to deliver hotspot data for specific studies. An individual academic license to this software can be had for $2150.

04. Gap Analysis: Gold Standard vs Current UBC Social Impact Purchasing Policy

The mandate for this project was to review the current efforts, policies and goals toward social impact purchasing at the University of British Columbia and compare it to the state of the art globally so that UBC might advance this pillar of sustainability and become an international leader. Hopefully the findings from the literature review presented thus far find meaning and use in this effort.

In this final section, I present a succinct gap analysis to highlight the apparent differences between the gold standard of social impact reporting and UBC's current tools for use in social impact purchasing. The primary documents considered were UBC PPS' *Supplier Code of Conduct* and *Sustainability Report Card*, as previously discussed, and the *S-LCA Methodological Sheets*. I focus primarily on differences in language regarding the inclusitivity of key terms regarding human well being. The *S-LCA Methodological Sheets,* in my mind, represent the most comprehensive, internationally agreed upon, yet still progressive, aspirational methodology for improving institutional social impact assessment. The gaps between UBC's ethical purchasing tools and the methodological sheets represent key areas for improving policy.

This gap analysis focuses on general standard inclusion. More in depth comparison, would use the same format of comparison to: 1) recommend metrics for measuring impacts described in each standard; 2) suggest aspirational goals along a feasible time frame; 3) justify policy recommendations by providing reference to applicable international, Canadian, and UBC legislation, policies, and goals. Unfortunately, due to the limited timeframe of this report, this was only partially possible. The attached excel document includes commented progress on these steps for the first 8 subcategory standards. I estimate that completing such a review would take approximately 40 minutes of consideration for each of 31 standards, totalling some 15 to 20 hours of student time.

Instead reference should be made to the S-LCA Methodological sheets for recommendations for potential metrics and goals, and to the literature review of this project for relevant international, national, and UBC legislation, policy etc...

Gap Analysis Preview:
See attached excel document for details included in comments.

Stake-holder	Standard	Inclusion					Recommendations	
	Full consideration included for first 8 standards in comments: red triangle in Excel doc.	Gold Standard: S-LCA, Included?	Current PPS SCC?	*Achievement Score*	Current Report Card?	*Achievement Score*	Recommended?	Recommended Metric
Local Community	1 Delocalization and Migration	Yes	No	0	No	0	Yes	
	2 Community Engagement	Yes	Yes	1	No	0	Yes	
	3 Cultural Heritage/ Discrimination	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	1	Yes	
	4 Respect of Indigenous Rights	Yes	Yes	1	Partial	0.5	Yes	
	5 Local Employment	Yes	Partial	0.5	Partial	0.5	Yes	
	6 Access to Immaterial Resources	Yes	Partial/ No	0.25	No	0	Yes	
	7 Access to Material Resources	Yes	Yes	1	No	0	Yes	
	8 Safe and Healthy Living Conditions	Yes	Yes	1	No	0	Yes	
	9 Secure Living Conditions	Yes	Partial	0.5	No	0	Yes	
Value Chain Actors	10 Fair Competition	Yes	Partial/ No	0.25	No	0	Yes	
	11 Respect of Intellectual Property Rights	Yes	Partial/ No	0.25	No	0	Yes	
	12 Supplier Relationships	Yes	No	0	No	0	No	
	13 Promoting Social Responsibility	Yes	No	0	Yes	1	Yes	
Consumer	14 Health and Safety	Yes	No	0	No	0	Yes	
	15 Feedback Mechanism	Yes	No	0	No	0	Yes	
	16 Privacy	Yes	No	0	No	0	Yes	
	17 Transparency	Yes	No	0	No	0	Yes	
	18 End-of-life Responsibility	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	1	Yes	
Worker	19 Freedom of Association & Collective Bargaining	Yes	Yes	1	No	0	Yes	
	20 Child Labour	Yes	Yes	1	No	0	Yes	
	21 Fair Salary	Yes	Yes	1	No	0	Yes	
	22 Hours of Work	Yes	Yes	1	No	0	Yes	
	23 Forced Labour	Yes	Yes	1	No	0	Yes	
	24 Equal Opportunities/ Discrimination	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	1	Yes	
	25 Health and Safety	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	1	Yes	
	26 Social Benefit/ Social Security	Yes	No	0	No	0	Yes	
Society	27 Public Commitment to Sustainability Issues	Yes	Partial	0.5	Yes	1	Yes	
	28 Prevention and Mitigation of Conflicts	Yes	No	0	No	0	Yes	
	29 Contribution to Economic Development	Yes	No	0	No	0	Yes	
	30 Corruption	Yes	No	0	No	0	Yes	
	31 Technology Development	Yes	No	0	No	0	Yes	
	Cumulative Scoring	30		15.25		7	30	

05. Conclusions and Recommendations

The University of British Columbia and Purchasing and Procurement Services specifically have demonstrated admirable commitment, innovation and leadership in the field of social sustainability. The initiative is complicated, challenging, and rewarding.

The next step for PPS and the University at large will be translating Board of Governors Policy No. 5 and the other policies, goals, and aims into effective action, leadership and progress.

Key steps in this push, I believe, should include:

1. Drafting the Supplier Code of Conduct and the Sustainability Report card to include more comprehensive goals, as outlined above, and to challenge suppliers to follow those goals. This aim would be well complemented by further study of the S-LCA Methodological Sheets for useful metrics and standards to be met.
2. Implementing, or considering implementation, of a requirement for EPEAT electronics standards.
3. Implementing, or considering implementation, a requirement for ISO 65 compliant third party sustainability certification.

I look forward to the progress the University and Payment and Procurement Services will indubitably make in the years to come.

Acknowledgements

Appendix A

UBC SUSTAINABILITY SCOREC

FY11-12 Q2

Area	Sub-Area	Indicator	Metric	Goal	Acklands Granger	Brinks	Dell	Fisher Scientifi	Grand & Toy	Hemlock Printers	Novex	Praxair	Rogers	Staples	Telus	TNT	Unisource	VWR	% Met Where Quantifiable	Goal?
Ecological	Energy & Climate	Have you read and familiarized yourself with the UBC Supply Management "Supplier Code of Conduct"?	Yes/No	Yes		1		PARTLY	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	0.9	
		Are you currently measuring your corporate GHG* emissions?	es/No	Yes		0		0	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	0	0.6	
		If yes, what were your annual GHG emissions for the last year?	Tonnes CO2e, year			N/A		6739.81 -2010	-2010	469 (2010)	1,043.6 (2010)	15.1 M -2010		286900 -2010		13,633	N/A			
		Have you taken steps to reduce your corporate GHG emissions?	Yes/No	Yes		1		1	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	
		If yes, what is your target reduction by 2015?	%	33				10%	1	35%	70%			0.5		33%	10%		0.263333333	No
		Have you opted to make your GHG emissions public (or submitted to a not-for-profit organization such as the CDP**)?	Yes/No	Yes		0		N/A	1		0	0		1		1	0	0	0.5	
		Are you currently making deliveries to the UBC Campus? How often?	Yes/No; amount		1	1		1	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	
		If yes, how are you working towards decreasing the carbon footprint created by deliveries?		Decrease trips; consolidation; hybrid vehicles																
Ecological	Materials & Waste	What is your current corporate standard for paper?	% PCW***	30				30-100%	30-100%	95% PCW	100%	N/A		30%		30%	0, FSC	N/A	0.2	No
		Have you taken steps to reduce your corporate packaging for goods sold to UBC?	Yes/No	Yes		N/A		N/A	1	1	1	N/A		1		N/A	0	1	0.8	
		If yes, how? (reuseable or recyclable packaging/take back programs)		Reusable packaging/take back program				1				N/A				N/A	1			
		Are you currently measuring the amount of solid waste generated by your company?	Yes/No	Yes		0		0	1	1	0	N/A		1		1	1	1	0.6	
		If yes, have you taken steps to increase your waste diversion rate?	Yes/No	Yes		N/A		N/A Y	1	1	1 N/A	N/A		1		1	1	1	0.5	
		If yes, what is your target for waste diversion by 2015?	%	70		N/A		N/A	85%	99.75%	N/A			25% -202000%		70%	38%	N/A	0.325277778	No
Economic	Purchasing	Please list/attach any additional comments/documents that your company is doing in the ecological category				N/A		N/A										N/A		
		Have you created or incorporated any sustainable purchasing policies or guidelines for current corporate purchases?	Yes/No	Yes		0		Y	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	0.8	
		Please list/attach any additional comments/documents that your company is doing in the economical category																		
Social	Health & Safety	Are you currently supporting/promoting healthy and sustainable living to your employees?	Yes/No	Yes		1		1	1	1	1	1		1		1	0	1	0.9	
		If yes, please elaborate?																		
	Inclusivity	Are you currently supporting/promoting social inclusion for target communities? (ex: people with disabilities, youth-at-risk, visible minorities, etc.)?	Yes/No	Yes		1		1		1	1	1		1		1	0	1	0.888888889	
		If yes, please elaborate?	Yes/No	Yes																
		Please list/attach any additional comments/documents that your company is doing in the social category				Attached														
																			AVG	0.651416667

UBC Social Purchasing Impact Standards Comparison/ Inclusion

V.1 Primary Source Document: The Methodological Sheets for Sub-CategorieS in Social Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA), Pre-publication version, by UNEP and SETAC. Available here : http://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/S-LCA_methodological_sheets_11.11.13.pdf

Current Achievement Scoring, point based: No= 0, Partial/No =0.25, Partial = 0.5, Partial/yes=.75, Yes= 1 pt

Stake-holder	Standard	Inclusion						Recommendations	
	Full consideration included for first 8 standards in comments: red triangle in Excel doc.	Gold Standard : S-LCA, Included?	Current PPS SCC?	*Achievment Score*	Current Report Card?	*Achievment Score*		Recommended?	Recommended Metric
Local Community	1 Delocalization and Migration	Yes	No	0	No	0		Yes	
	2 Community Engagement	Yes	Yes	1	No	0		Yes	
	3 Cultural Heritage/ Discrimination	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	1		Yes	
	4 Respect of Indigenous Rights	Yes	Yes	1	Partial	0.5		Yes	
	5 Local Employment	Yes	Partial	0.5	Partial	0.5		Yes	
	6 Access to Immaterial Resources	Yes	Partial/ No	0.25	No	0		Yes	
	7 Access to Material Resources	Yes	Yes	1	No	0		Yes	
	8 Safe and Healthy Living Conditions	Yes	Yes	1	No	0		Yes	
	9 Secure Living Conditions	Yes	Partial	0.5	No	0		Yes	
Value Chain Actors	10 Fair Competition	Yes	Partial/ No	0.25	No	0		Yes	
	11 Respect of Intellectual Property Rights	Yes	Partial/ No	0.25	No	0		Yes	
	12 Supplier Relationships	Yes	No	0	No	0		No	
	13 Promoting Social Responsibility	Yes	No	0	Yes	1		Yes	
Consumer	14 Health and Safety	Yes	No	0	No	0		Yes	
	15 Feedback Mechanism	Yes	No	0	No	0		Yes	
	16 Privacy	Yes	No	0	No	0		Yes	
	17 Transparency	Yes	No	0	No	0		Yes	
	18 End-of-life Responsibility	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	1		Yes	
Worker	19 Freedom of Association & Collective Bargaining	Yes	Yes	1	No	0		Yes	
	20 Child Labour	Yes	Yes	1	No	0		Yes	
	21 Fair Salary	Yes	Yes	1	No	0		Yes	
	22 Hours of Work	Yes	Yes	1	No	0		Yes	
	23 Forced Labour	Yes	Yes	1	No	0		Yes	
	24 Equal Opportunities/ Discrimination	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	1		Yes	
	25 Health and Safety	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	1		Yes	
	26 Social Benefit/ Social Security	Yes	No	0	No	0		Yes	
Society	27 Public Commitment to Sustainability Issues	Yes	Partial	0.5	Yes	1		Yes	
	28 Prevention and Mitigation of Conflicts	Yes	No	0	No	0		Yes	
	29 Contribution to Economic Development	Yes	No	0	No	0		Yes	
	30 Corruption	Yes	No	0	No	0		Yes	
	31 Technology Development	Yes	No	0	No	0		Yes	
	Cumulative Scoring	30		15.3		7		30	

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