








Social Value: Explore, Challenge, Apply.

NETpositive Futures and the Social Value Engine are joining forces to help an elite group of procurement leaders to explore practical ways to consider and measure social value.

The group consists of:

-  Anglia Ruskin University
-  Barnsley Metropolitan Council
-  Durham University
-  Newcastle University
-  The University of Birmingham
-  The University of Manchester
-  Yorkshire and Humber Police

The Social Value Act (2012)¹ has stimulated discussions about how sustainability is embedded and measured within procurement process and practice. Specifically, how it contributes tangible benefits to the wider community.

‘Social value’ discussions have tended to focus on the question ‘if £x is spent on delivering an activity, what is the value of that same £x in terms of wider social impact?’ we are interested in helping procurement practitioners understand what lies behind these calculations.

NETpositive Futures has considerable experience supporting public sector procurement teams. We are aware that most organisations are only just making sense of the challenge and opportunity that thinking about sustainability in terms of social value presents.

The Social Value Engine is one of a range of tools and techniques for measuring social value that have emerged since 2014 and these are providing a useful mechanism and support for measuring social value.





Working in partnership provides us with opportunity to explore how social value can support sustainable procurement ambitions.

¹ Which requires public bodies to think about how social, environmental and economic benefits are secured through procurements.

About this project

We have developed this project to explore approaches and the potential benefit of using social value metrics, as we recognise that procurement teams might be interested in exploring social value but unsure exactly how to calculate it and how it might enhance their sustainable procurement activity.





The project aims to support procurement practice by:

-  Calculating the social value of procurements
-  Engaging procurement teams with social value
-  Critically reviewing and enhancing procurement process to include social value considerations
-  Sharing our learning

In Spring 2020 we will publish learning from the project, which will be shared widely with support from YPO.

About the Social Value Engine

The Social Value Engine provides:

-  A systemised and academically robust assessment of social value that can be built into procurement process and practice
-  A description of how a project creates value including a ratio of how much social value (in £) is created for every £ spent
-  Over 140 peer-reviewed financial proxies derived from reliable sources, which are regularly updated
-  An overview of how activities link to creating a better community based on the Bristol Accord principles.

About NETpositive

Governments, local authorities and institutions such as universities are currently declaring a Climate Emergency; the need to address significant environmental impacts has never been clearer. The need to minimise the negative environmental impacts humans have on the environment is not in question.

NETpositive sustainability was a term coined in 2011, it was developed to recognise that we *also* need to focus on the *positive* impacts and value of our individual and collective activities; environmentally, socially and economically. The aim being to achieve an overall position that is NETpositive.

Arguably, engaging teams and stakeholders with positive language and approaches is more critical now than ever. Discussions about contribution and value to our environments, society and the economy is an inherently more positive approach to dealing with our impacts. It also provides opportunities for stakeholders to engage fully with the processes and understand direct and indirect contributions in the context of their own processes.

We challenge procurement teams in particular to consider how they and their organisations can enhance their communities by adding value through a considered and practical approach.