



Sustainable Procurement Success Story

Responsible Sourcing from Start-to-Finish with the City of Nanaimo's Light Fixtures

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Context

What was the procurement risk or opportunity?

Lighting in three of the City of Nanaimo's recreation facilities was reaching the end of its life and required an upgrade to LED fixtures. The amount of waste that would be created from the disposal of their old lighting and the installation of the new lighting didn't sit right with the City and their sustainability efforts. They identified an opportunity in their procurement process to minimize the amount of waste sent to landfill. They published a tender with mandatory sustainability criteria that would reduce the amount of landfill waste generated from replacing their lighting.

Procurement Process

What processes were used and who was engaged?

The City of Nanaimo included several mandatory sustainability requirements for Bidders to respond to. For the new lighting packaging, they required that there were no foam materials used nor excessive use of plastic packaging. Any packaging used to avoid breakage during transportation needed to be made of a material that can be recycled within the City's recycling streams, with an emphasis on environmentally preferable materials such as recycled content and renewable or biodegradable materials such as wood or paper.

They required contractors to be responsible for the proper separation and recycling of the old lights and fixtures that were at their end-of-life to avoid materials entering the landfill. To ensure compliance, contractors needed to provide documentation proving the responsible recycling processes were used. The City of Nanaimo also asked for a list of any conflict minerals and hazardous substances for disclosure and transparency.

Impact

What outcomes did we find?

The City of Nanaimo received multiple bids, which showcases that lighting suppliers have the capacity and capability to provide green packaging and proper disposal of products. Considering how well received their Request for Bid was, Scott Pamming, City of Nanaimo's Infrastructure Planning and Energy Manager, realized that including more sustainable elements from start-to-finish on projects is a great way to reduce their waste impacts and carbon footprint.