

Sustainable Acquisition Success Story

Operations Spotlight on East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP)

ETTP's Sustainable Supply Chain Council

The East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) developed a Sustainable Supply Chain Council (SSCC) as a part of its new Go Zero campaign to deliver emission reductions and climate resilience to Oak Ridge Reservation cleanup operations. The SSCC's focus is to reduce the environmental impact of ETTP's supply chain and prioritize making changes to the supply chain culture. These changes will promote the site to be more environmentally conscious and actively engaged in more sustainable and climate friendly procurement practices. ETTP aims to develop a supply chain that embodies its values.

Currently the SSCC is improving sustainable procurement training and tools to elevate stakeholders' awareness, identify opportunities to improve efficiency of the supply chain processes, and begin to implement improvement initiatives.

The SSCC is designing and implementing initiatives such as a testing campaign for environmentally preferable products. The testing campaign allows stakeholders to test and select alternatives to less preferable products already in use and to develop a company-specific catalog of products with the highest and most environmental and social equity aspects.

In addition, the SSCC is 1) enhancing its resource exchange to improve circularity and reduce overall procurements, and 2) expanding procurement procedures to include sustainable practices. Increasing interfacing with ETTP's primary suppliers will allow SSCC to improve risk-based assessments of these primary suppliers, evaluate supplier performance using supplier ranking services, as well as encourage and support smaller suppliers to improve the GHG transparency of their products.

Drivers: The SSCC supports the site's sustainable acquisition efforts and compliance with Executive Orders 14057 and 14008, ETTP's Federal Sustainability Plan, Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, and Climate Action & Resilience Plan. This initiative will also help ETTP achieve the 1) 2031 Strategic Plan goal to "...develop programs and approaches to establish climate-resilient supply chains and address climate-related impacts on neighboring communities" and 2) ETTP's 2023 Sustainability & Climate Management Strategy goal "to implement climate-ready supply chain and sustainable acquisition program improvements."

Organization: ETTP's Sustainable Supply Chain Council was established April 2022 with seven members. The membership includes four members from ETTP's Supply Chain organizations, two from Sustainability & Environmental Programs organizations (including the SSCC Director), and one from an Environmental Justice Organization. In addition, there is one senior leader sponsor as well as visiting participants and presenters. The Sustainable Supply Chain Council currently meets on a monthly basis.

ETTP's Supply Chain Values

- Sustainable procurement is integral to our culture of excellence
- Partnerships make sustainable outcomes
- Lifecycle perspectives are essential
- Sustainable procurement is a requirement
- Procurements will consider the needs of the client, environment, workforce, and community



Photograph Credit: ETTP- SSCC Meeting

Process: With the initiation of this new council, several foundational actions occurred. First, the SSCC members enrolled in a 9-month third-party Sustainable Procurement Leadership Council (SPLC) Climate Foundations workshop. In addition, the SSCC members designated Supply Chain Stakeholders within the company, mapped categories of purchases to ETTP's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol and characterized the methodology to prioritize supply chain improvements.

Next Steps: Going into the second year, the council will integrate the SSCC with other company sustainability initiatives, such as the Sustainability Advocates Program and the Annual Sustainability Leadership Recognition Program. Through the harmonious collaboration between these three programs, ETTP will be positioned for a broader scope of external awards and recognitions.

Beyond the work the SSCC is already accomplishing, the council foresees a number of long term benefits including the overall improvement of ETTP's environmental performance, the achievement of DOE and ETTPs sustainability goals, reduction of Scope 2 and 3 GHG emissions, reduction of waste, pollution, and energy consumption, an increased percentage of environmentally preferable product purchased, more efficient Supply Chain organization, and more opportunities for environmental award nominations.

Keys to Success



Challenge

- Meet DOE and ETTP sustainability goals
- Reduce ETTP's Supply Chain environmental impact
- Increase the acquisition of environmentally preferable and socially equitable products
- Improve opportunities for external recognition of ETTP's environmental stewardship

Solution

- Establish the Sustainable Supply Chain Council
- Identify opportunities for improvement
- Design and roll-out initiatives
- Expand sustainable practices in procurement procedures
- Encourage suppliers to provide more data on the sustainable attributes of their products
- Integrate the Sustainable Supply Chain Council with other site sustainability initiatives

Results/Benefits

- Achievement of DOE and ETTP sustainability goals
- Increase in environmentally preferable product purchasing
- Reduction of Scope 2 and 3 greenhouse gas emissions, waste, pollution, and energy consumption
- More efficient supply chain organizations
- Increased opportunities for internal and external environmental recognition awards

Key Stakeholders

- Leaders/Decision-makers
- Influencers
- Subject Matter Experts
- End Users, i.e. those doing the work

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