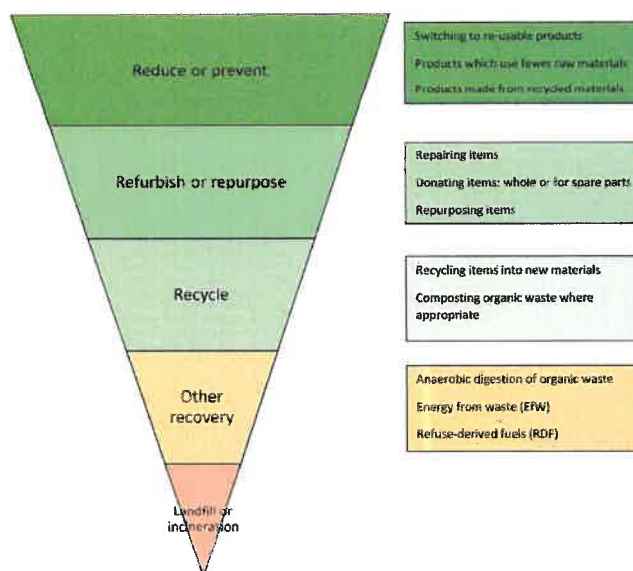


Sustainable Procurement Policy 2026

WILLOWS FARM VETS is committed to sourcing and procuring 'environmentally preferable' products and services that meet current performance, safety and regulatory requirements.

By adopting this sustainable procurement policy, WILLOWS FARM VETS agrees to:

- Act in accordance with the waste hierarchy (see below), avoiding the unnecessary procurement of products and services where possible.
- Use the criteria set out below to make decisions relating to the procurement of goods and services.
- Review and, if necessary, update the policy on an annual basis.
- Share the policy with all staff making procurement decisions.



The Waste Hierarchy; with the least preferable waste disposal option at the bottom of the pyramid and most environmentally preferable option at the top.

Sustainable Procurement Criteria

WILLOWS FARM VETS will consider the following criteria when making procurement decisions:

- Eliminating or reducing the procurement of products or services that have the most harmful environmental impact.
- Selecting products which have certifications that recognise sustainability efforts eg FSC, Energy Star etc.
- Procuring locally sourced/ manufactured products when possible.
- Procuring reused, refurbished, remanufactured and recycled-content products when possible.
- Purchasing greener products available through existing suppliers, such as energy saving office equipment, biodegradable cleaning products and refillable products.
- Practicing good stock control to prevent over-ordering of products.
- Consolidating stock orders to reduce delivery vehicle emissions.
- Actively encouraging suppliers to stock products and services that have minimum environmental impact and to reduce the packaging in which products are supplied.
- Asking suppliers to provide clear information about the processes and materials used in their manufacturing and identifying any processes harmful to the environment. Seek suppliers that are working towards the phase out of such practices.

It may not be possible to purchase a green alternative for every product or service. Compromise may be required. WILLOWS FARM VETS will endeavor to:

- Address the significant environmental impacts of current procurement.
- Engage colleagues responsible for procurement decisions with general environmental awareness and provide support for them to improve the sustainability of our supply chain.
- Work co-operatively with other departments and neighboring organisations to purchase environmentally sound products.

The criteria listed above will be used, wherever practicable, with regards to resource use and recyclability, hazardous content, energy use, packaging, transportation, catering, supplier environmental reporting and social impact.

THE CLINICAL DIRECTORS are responsible for the implementation of this policy and the monitoring of procurement activity in accordance with it. This policy is available on the website.

