



# The Path Towards Sustainable Procurement for the Province of Nova Scotia

**Presentation to IPAC**

**April 2nd, 2009**

# Why are we doing this?



- Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (2007) requirement to develop and adopt Sustainable Procurement Policy by 2009
- It is the right thing to do
  - Build on current successes
  - Take a corporate approach
  - Formalize activities
  - Working Group

# How did we get here



- Formed a working group
  - Economic & Rural Development
  - NS Environment
  - Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal
- Conducted research
  - Internet
  - Other jurisdictions
- Consulted with stakeholders
  - Internal
  - MASH
  - Vendors
  - ENGO's

# Strategic Direction



- Define Scope
- Develop Approach
- Seek Approval from Cabinet

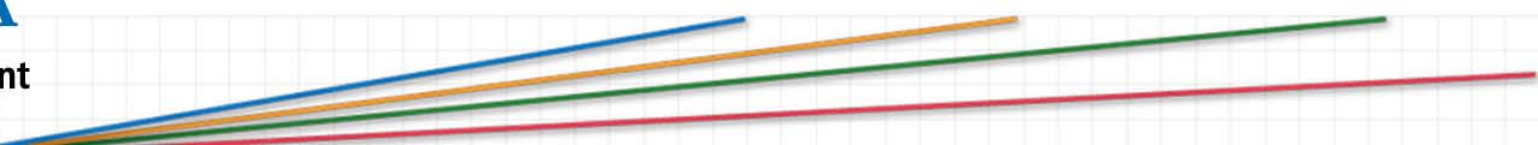
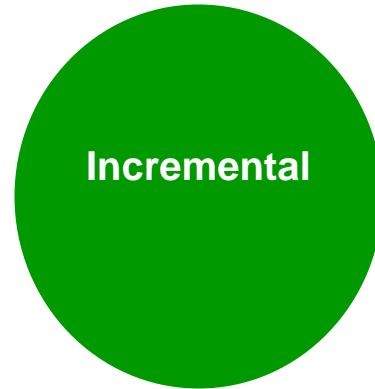
# Scope



- Define Scope
  - scope of Sustainable Procurement
    - Environmental, social & economic considerations
    - Consistent with Opportunities For Sustainable Prosperity
    - Policy will apply to
      - Government departments,
      - agencies, boards, commissions
    - Close collaboration with MASH



# Approach



# Approval Process

- Seek approval from Cabinet for Scope and Approach
  - Executive Council approval (August 2008)
  - Requested further consultation with Departments on scope and approach and Policy content and provide feedback to any major concerns

# Procurement Process



- **Comments**

- Concerns that sustainable procurement could add complexity to procurement process
- Need to balance sustainable considerations with efficient processing of low dollar transactions
- Many staff involved in the procurement process at many different levels of interest

- **How can concerns be addressed?**

- Staff training and education opportunities – basic and advanced
- Guidance from Procurement Services staff
- Supporting tools: Standing Offers, Website, Specifications
- Tendering thresholds

# Buy Local



- **Comments**
  - Departments want the opportunity to support local business
- **How can concerns be addressed?**
  - NS Preference below trade thresholds
  - Implement strategic opportunities through the use of source lists and standing offers for below trade agreement thresholds
  - Investigate increased limits on Procurement Cards to maximize local purchases
  - Develop a new ALTP exemption for new or innovative technology with environmental and economic benefits

# Behaviour Change



- **Comments**
  - All Departments recognize changing employee purchasing behavior and practices is key to success and one that will require substantial effort
  - ReThink program identified as a key partner
- **How can concerns be addressed?**
  - Directive to consider sustainability
  - Mandatory use of Standing Offers and Stationary Stockroom
  - Encourage Departmental business planning process to consider sustainable procurement

# Compliance / Measurement



- **Comments**

- More success in promoting compliance through outreach and education than heavy hand approach
- Communication of results

- **How concerns can be addressed:**

- Departmental compliance responsibility
- Promote and reward success stories
- Government business planning process

# Costs vs. Best Value



- **Comments**

- Departments want to ensure that the cost of incorporating sustainable considerations into their procurement decisions does not compromise their ability to provide the same level of programs and services

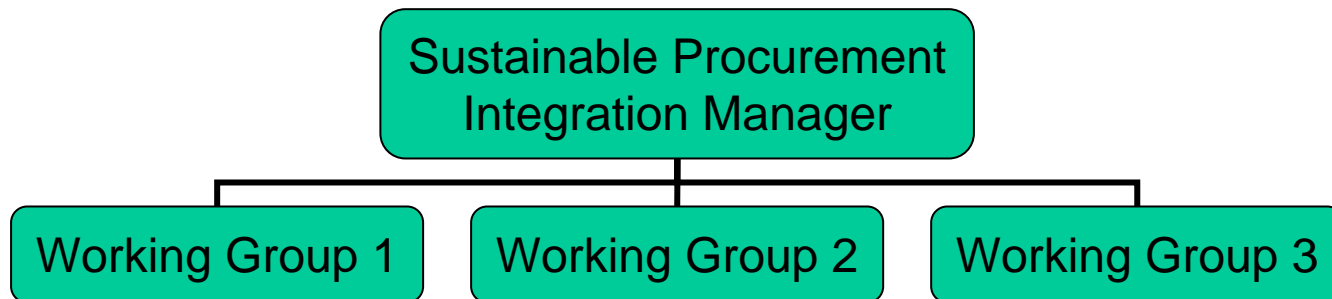
- **How concerns can be addressed:**

- Communication around perceived costs of sustainable procurement
- Life Cycle Costing training
- Capital vs Operating budgets

# Implementation

- High Level Policy Framework
- Build on successes
- High level of collaboration
  - Internal & external
- Training & Support
- Communication and sharing of progress
  - Web Site, Ambassadors & Talk SP

# Implementation Approach





# Next Steps

- Prepare draft policy and implementation framework for Cabinet
- Continue developing supporting tools
  - Introductory on-line training
  - Website Development
- Obtain approval from Cabinet for the new Procurement Policy
- Begin Implementation: April/May 2009

# CONCLUSION

- IT IS NOT THE END
- IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING
- QUESTIONS?