

# **Addressing Sustainability through Local Government Procurement**

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Against the headway sustainable development has made in industry, this paper examines what the progress of sustainability has been in another important area of economic activity, namely in government buying. Case study evidence from local government procurement in England reveals a broad range of activities which aim to address the environmental, social and economic elements of sustainability. These range from phasing out hazardous materials in procured goods and services through increasing sourcing from local companies as well as social enterprises and voluntary sector organisations to certification to an environmental management standard. However, a number of gaps in addressing sustainability through local government procurement remain too. Not least, an absence of a strategic direction is noticeable in many authorities, as is a general lack of an international exchange of ideas and experiences. The paper concludes by developing policy recommendations as well as discussing avenues for future research.