



Lambeth Sustainable Timber Policy Implementation

London Borough of Lambeth

Supplier Engagement Focus.....

Policy implementation with material specific Contractors and suppliers

In February 2007 a seminar was held to bring together the key people involved in the procurement of timber highlighting Lambeth's corporate policy, its relevance and responsibilities for implementation, with the aim of improving compliance. Procurers, programme and contract managers, contractors, consultants and suppliers in Lambeth were invited.

Why.....

- Lambeth has had a sustainable timber procurement policy approved by Executive in place since 2002, and been a member of WWF Forest Trade Network (FTN) since 200X.
- The need for supplier engagement was highlighted after difficulty in collecting monitoring data required as a member of the FTN and discussions with staff, suppliers and contractors highlighted limited policy implementation or knowledge and understanding of the issue.
- Sustainable timber and monitoring was required in contracts (in limited detail) and some sections were implementing part of the policy by procuring sustainable timber, but monitoring data was not collected or collated.
- Prior to the seminar individual meetings were held with Contractors, which was both resources intensive with limited results.

How.....

- Organisations Lambeth had an established relationship with on the policy implementation were invited to speak.
- Meetings were held with internal departments prior to the seminar to identify the issues, key players and areas of discussion and awareness raising needed.
- The agenda covered:
 - Why: the significance of the issue
 - How: Example of implementation (95% certified sustainable timber)
 - When: Requirements on Lambeth projects
 - What & How: Interpreting Lambeth's Policy; assistance available
 - Questions
- Meetings were arranged internally





Event outcomes.....

- Attendance was high (60), with representatives from Timber merchants, Contractors, other London Boroughs, staff from Housing, BSF, Repairs & Maintenance, Property Services, Corporate Procurement and Parks.
- Increased awareness of the purpose of the policy, basic requirements and how to meet them.
- Question time proved to be the most valuable section of the seminar.
- Monitoring was noted as the greatest issue for compliance.
- Clear need to clarify individual roles, how they can contribute and reassure resource requirements are limited.

Lessons Learned.....

- Getting key senior staff to support the event greatly improved attendance.
- Event requires frequent marketing and re-marketing to the target audience.
- It is important to focus on the positives of trying to enable attendees to work towards compliance, rather than the negatives of past non-compliance.
- Internal issues or politics may be raised in front of external organisations when all parties are invited, however bringing together internal and external representatives provided good coverage of all the issues.

Resource requirements.....

Staff time: implementation of this policy was a work objective for the team, therefore the seminar provided greater impact for less effort.

Cost: Only financial impact was catering as Lambeth meeting facilities were appropriate.

Planning: Approximately 2 months prior to the event.

What next.....

- Ongoing assistance and advice is available to external partners, and in-depth assistance is being provided department by department internally.
- Monitoring information is due annually, results post-seminar are yet to be collected.
- Potentially a further seminar will be held internally to provide a more targeted discussion and review of monitoring issues.
- New contracts will require 6 monthly meetings to review implementation and compliance issues with Contractors.
- Meetings will be held with Consultants and/or Contractors when the new contract commences.

Resources for replication.....

- [Lambeth Sustainable Timber policy](#)

Contact

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