



# Iarnród Éireann Rail2050

## Iarnród Éireann Sustainable Procurement Strategy

**Version Number:** 01.2026  
**Issue Date:** 27.02.2026  
**Approval Body:** Procurement Department  
**Review Date:** 27.02.2028  
**Classification:** Public

## 1. Purpose

This strategy sets out Iarnród Éireann's commitment to embedding sustainability into procurement activities, ensuring responsible stewardship of public funds while advancing environmental protection, social value, and economic resilience in compliance with national and EU obligations.

## 2. Scope

This strategy, where practical, applies to procurement activities conducted by Iarnród Éireann and its representatives above the national threshold, regardless of funding source, and covers the procurement of goods, services, and works.

## 3. Strategy Statement

Iarnród Éireann is committed to sustainable procurement practices that deliver long-term value for money while achieving positive environmental, social, and economic outcomes. Iarnród Éireann will:

- ▶ Integrate sustainability considerations into procurement planning, procedures, and contract management.
- ▶ Actively contribute to national climate and social objectives.
- ▶ Engage supply chain partners to promote continuous improvement and innovation in sustainable performance.

## 4. Legal and Policy Framework

Procurement activities shall be conducted in full compliance with the following legislative and policy instruments:

### EU Legislation

- ▶ Directive 2014/25/EU on procurement by utilities in the transport sector.
- ▶ EU Green Public Procurement (GPP) Criteria.

### Irish Legislation and National Policy

- ▶ European Union (Award of Contracts by Utility Undertakings) Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 286/2016).
- ▶ Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.
- ▶ Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (IHREC Act 2014).
- ▶ Circular 20/2019: Inclusion of social considerations in public procurement.
- ▶ Public Spending Code.
- ▶ National Development Plan (NDP) and Climate Action Plan (CAP).

- ▶ Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024–2027.
- ▶ Circular 17/2025 – Updated Green Public Procurement Instructions for Public Sector Bodies.

## 5. Green Public Procurement (GPP) Requirements

Under the Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024–2027 and Circular 17/2025, Iarnród Éireann is required to:

- ▶ When possible, to apply GPP criteria in all procurement procedures for priority sectors identified in the national strategy, such as transport, construction, ICT, cleaning, and energy-consuming products and services.
- ▶ When possible, use the EPA's GPP Criteria and Guidance as the standard reference for technical specifications, selection and award criteria, and contract performance clauses.
- ▶ Build capacity and awareness within procurement teams to effectively implement GPP.
- ▶ Incorporate life cycle costing (LCC) and carbon reduction considerations where applicable.

## 6. Sustainable Procurement Objectives

Iarnród Éireann will pursue the following objectives:

### ▶ Environmental Responsibility

- Integrate GPP criteria into procurement planning and tender documentation.
- Promote resource efficiency, energy conservation, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Support the circular economy and prioritise low-carbon, low-waste solutions.

### ▶ Social Inclusion and Value

- Where applicable, apply social clauses, in line with Circular 20/2019, to promote employment, training, and equality.
- Where applicable, incorporate measurable social value outcomes into tender evaluation and contract performance management.
- Promote supplier diversity and ethical supply chain practices.

### ▶ Economic Development

- Facilitate SME access to public procurement opportunities.
- Encourage innovation and local supply chain participation, consistent with procurement rules.

- Support resilience in national infrastructure and supply networks.

## 7. Implementation and Monitoring

Procurement teams will:

- ▶ When possible, embed sustainability considerations into specifications, tender criteria, and contract management.
- ▶ Maintain records to support internal and external reporting on GPP implementation.
- ▶ Collaborate with stakeholders to identify opportunities for continuous improvement.
- ▶ Advance supplier emissions reporting to increase transparency and enable robust Scope 3 tracking.

## 8. Supporting Our Supply Chain: Driving Sustainable Procurement Through Technology, Training, and Collaboration

Iarnród Éireann recognise that driving meaningful change requires collaboration. The organisation are committed to actively partnering with suppliers to ensure they are supported on the journey toward a lower-carbon, more responsible, and more resilient future. To achieve this, Iarnród Éireann will leverage technology, provide free training opportunities, and offer technical assistance to help suppliers meet evolving sustainability requirements. Examples include:

- ▶ **CIF Carbon Calculator** – enabling suppliers to measure, report, and manage their carbon footprint, helping them identify opportunities to reduce emissions and contribute to national climate targets. (<https://cif.sustainabilitytool.com/>)
- ▶ **Supply Chain Sustainability School** – offering free access to accredited training, learning resources, and best practice guidance to upskill suppliers in areas such as carbon reduction, circular economy, human rights, and responsible procurement. (<https://www.supplychainschool.ie/>)
- ▶ **Social Value Management Platform** – supporting suppliers to capture, report, and demonstrate the social, community, and economic value they create through their work with Iarnród Éireann, ensuring transparency and alignment with wider social value goals.
- ▶ **Sustainability Supplier Performance Platform** – providing a structured framework to measure and track sustainability performance across the supply chain, ensuring continuous improvement.

## 8. Review

This Strategy will be reviewed biennially, or in response to significant legislative or policy changes, including updates to national GPP or social value guidance.