

Sustainable Timber Purchasing Policy

As a consumer of timber and wood derived products, Lewisham Council has a responsibility to ensure that the procurement of these products is not at the expense of the future of the world's forests, but positively supports responsible forest management.

To achieve this aim Lewisham Council will only purchase timber and wood derived products that are either:

- from independently verifiable legal and sustainable or FLEGT licensed or equivalent sources; **or**
- recycled timber or wood derived products.

In support of our policy we will not knowingly source forest products from:

- Forests or forest product suppliers that do not comply with all relevant national and international legislation relating to the trade in forest products.
- High Conservation Value Forests where these are recognised nationally or regionally, unless these forests are progressing towards credible forest certification in a time bound, stepwise and transparent manner.
- Protected areas, parks or similar areas where harvesting operations are not complimentary to responsible forest management.
- Forests which are currently being converted to other land uses, or forests that have been converted since 1994.
- Forests which are in areas of armed conflict or civil unrest where there is a direct relationship between the forest products trade and the funding of such conflicts.

This policy helps deliver the Council's priorities, particularly in creating a borough that is 'clean, green and liveable'.

Suppliers to the Council will be required to demonstrate compliance with this policy, by providing:

- Evidence of certification under a scheme recognised by Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) including the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification scheme (PEFC) **or**,
- Other documentary evidence that provides assurance that the source is legal and sustainable as summarised above and defined by CPET in detail.

To ensure this policy is implemented effectively, Lewisham Council will:

- Incorporate the requirements of this policy across all functions of the Council
- Embed it in our supply chain and procurement processes
- Bring the policy to the attention of our employees and members of the supply chain, i.e. customers and key stakeholders, and gain their support in its implementation
- Actively support and encourage our suppliers in meeting the requirements of the policy
- Monitor the performance of the Council against the policy, by monitoring purchasing across the Council and evidence from suppliers
- Review the policy on an annual basis to ensure its continuing suitability and its relevance to the Council's strategies and policies.

Minimum buying standards for timber and wood derived products:

Product group	Minimum standards
All Paper	All paper purchased must be either Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) or Totally Chlorine Free (TCF).
Copying and graphic paper	All paper must be made from 100% post-consumer recycled paper.
Paper for printed publications	Paper should where ever possible, be made from 100% post-consumer recycled paper. Any virgin fibre used must be FSC or PEFC certified, or from a licensed Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) partner. In addition, all printed material should include a statement of the recycled content of the paper it is printed on.
Paper based cleaning products e.g. toilet paper	All paper must be made from 100% post-consumer recycled paper.
Paper-based stationery products e.g. notepads, post-it notes	Paper should where ever possible, be made from 100% post-consumer recycled paper. Any virgin fibre used must be FSC or PEFC certified, or from a licensed Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) partner. In addition, all printed material should include a statement of the recycled content of the paper it is printed on.
Envelopes	All paper must be made from 100% post-consumer recycled paper.
Furniture with timber content	<p>Only timber and timber products made from independently verifiable legal and sustainable sources such as FSC or PEFC, or from a FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) licensed partner can be purchased. Recycled timber is also accepted.</p> <p>Suppliers will be required to authenticate their claims, by producing a Chain of Custody Certificate or other such evidence.</p>
Timber	<p>Only timber sourced from independently verifiable legal and sustainable sources or FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) licensed partner should be purchased. Recycled timber is also accepted.</p> <p>Suppliers will be required to authenticate their claims, by producing a Chain of Custody Certificate or other such evidence.</p>