Green Procurement and Sustainable Logistics Course

17 – 21 May 2027
Cape Town (South Africa)

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Green Procurement and Sustainable Logistics Course

Ref: 8164_1060038 **Date:** 17 – 21 May 2027 **Location:** Cape Town (South Africa) **Fees:** 5300 Euro

Green Procurement and Sustainable Logistics Course is a 1-week course for buyers, category specialists and logistics coordinators who must cut the environmental impact of what their organization buys and how it moves goods. You set sustainable sourcing criteria, assess vendors, measure freight emissions and redesign packaging and storage, and you take back a Low-Impact Purchasing and Freight Plan. Mercury Training Center delivers this green procurement and sustainable logistics course.

About This Course

Sustainability targets are often set at board level, while the buyers and transport planners who drive most purchased and freight emissions keep using price-only tenders and full-truck habits. To follow the course you should already run tenders, manage vendors or plan shipments. You practice on tender documents, vendor data and route scenarios.

Who It Is For

- Buyers who write specifications, run tenders and award contracts.
- Category staff who choose sourcing strategies for major spend areas.
- Vendor relationship staff who evaluate and develop key suppliers.
- Transport and distribution planners who book carriers and set routes.
- Warehouse and packaging staff who handle storage, handling and returns.

This course is not for readers who need a full strategy covering design, production and marketing across the business, who are better served by a longer course on the whole value network, nor for those who mainly report corporate emissions, who suit a carbon accounting course.

Competencies You Will Build

- Sustainable Specification Writing: you add measurable environmental criteria to specifications and award weightings.
- Vendor Sustainability Assessment: you score vendors on environmental performance with questionnaires, evidence checks and site visits.
- Whole-Life Cost Analysis: you compare offers on total cost of ownership and life cycle impact, not only purchase price.
- Freight Emission Measurement: you calculate transport emissions by mode and route and find the largest sources.
- Low-Impact Distribution Planning: you raise load factors, shift modes and consolidate deliveries.
- Packaging and Returns Redesign: you cut packaging material and set up return loops for reusable items.

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What You Will Be Able to Do

By the end of the course you will be able to:

- Using ISO 20400 guidance, map where your purchasing policy and process need sustainability steps.
- From a spend analysis, rank categories by environmental impact and influence and pick the first ones to act on.
- Given two competing offers, compare their total cost of ownership and life cycle effects and recommend one.
- From shipment records, estimate freight emissions in line with ISO 14083 and the GHG Protocol Scope 3 categories.
- Given a delivery network, model consolidation and mode shift options and their effect on cost and emissions.
- Using vendor scorecards, set improvement targets and contract clauses for key vendors.

Course Content

Day 1: Sustainable Purchasing Foundations

- ISO 20400 Sustainable Procurement Guidance Applied to Purchasing Policy
- Spend Analysis and Category Prioritization by Environmental Impact
- GHG Protocol Scope 3 Categories for Purchased Goods and Transport
- Business Case: Cost Savings, Risk and Customer Demands
- Barriers to Sustainable Buying and How Buyers Overcome Them

Day 2: Specifications, Tenders and Vendors

- Environmental Criteria in Specifications and Award Weightings
- Total Cost of Ownership and Life Cycle Assessment in Bid Evaluation
- Vendor Sustainability Questionnaires and Evidence Checks
- Vendor Scorecards and Development Plans for Key Accounts
- Contract Clauses for Environmental Performance and Reporting

Day 3: Freight Emissions and Transport Choices

- ISO 14083 Transport Emission Calculation by Mode and Leg
- Load Factor Improvement and Empty Running Reduction
- Mode Shift Analysis Between Road, Rail and Sea Freight
- Carrier Selection Criteria and Fleet Efficiency Data
- Route Planning and Delivery Consolidation Scenarios

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Day 4: Packaging, Storage and Return Loops

- Packaging Reduction, Reuse and Material Substitution Options
- Reusable Transport Packaging and Return Loop Design
- Warehouse Energy, Lighting and Material Handling Efficiency
- Reverse Logistics for Returns, Repair and Recycling
- Performance Indicators and Pareto Analysis for Purchasing and Freight

Day 5: Practice Building the Low-Impact Purchasing and Freight Plan

- Exercise: Rewriting a Tender Specification With Environmental Criteria
- Exercise: Whole-Life Cost Comparison of Two Equipment Offers
- Exercise: Freight Emission Estimate for a Distribution Network
- Exercise: Vendor Scorecard and Improvement Targets
- Completing the Low-Impact Purchasing and Freight Plan for Your Organization

Case Studies and Exercises

These are suggested activities.

- Case study: a hospital buys single-use supplies on lowest price; you decide which categories move to reusable items and how to weight the tender.
- Case study: a food distributor runs half-empty trucks to small stores; you test consolidation and delivery windows against cost and emissions.
- Exercise: a construction contractor sources cement and steel from many vendors; you build a scorecard and set improvement targets.
- Exercise: an online retailer faces rising packaging waste and returns; you redesign packaging and set up a return loop.

What You Take Back

The Low-Impact Purchasing and Freight Plan is the action plan you complete for your own organization during the course. In your first month back, you use it to agree priority categories with your manager, add criteria to the next tender and start measuring freight emissions on one lane.

- A ranked list of priority spend categories.
- Specification criteria, award weightings and contract clauses.
- A vendor scorecard with improvement targets.
- A freight emission baseline with consolidation and mode shift actions.

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Quick Answers FAQ

What should I know before green procurement and sustainable logistics training?

You should already run tenders, manage vendors or plan shipments, and be able to read a spend report or freight invoice. No environmental science background is needed.

How does green procurement and sustainable logistics training differ from a full green supply chain strategy course?

It concentrates on two levers buyers and transport planners control directly: what is bought and from whom, and how goods are moved, packed and stored. Longer strategy courses also cover product design, production and marketing.

How do you measure freight emissions for sustainable logistics?

Multiply the distance and weight of each shipment leg by an emission factor for its mode and vehicle, then add the legs together. ISO 14083 sets out how to quantify and report these transport chain emissions consistently.

What do I take back from the Green Procurement and Sustainable Logistics Course?

You take back the Low-Impact Purchasing and Freight Plan: priority categories, tender criteria and clauses, a vendor scorecard and a freight emission baseline with planned actions.

For Your Manager

After the course, the team member can add environmental criteria to tenders, assess vendors, compare offers on whole-life cost and measure and reduce freight emissions. They return with a Low-Impact Purchasing and Freight Plan for the organization, first used in the next tender and on one delivery lane chosen for an emissions baseline.