

## **“GEC Webinar Series: Sustainable Procurement Through the Public and Private Sector Lens”**

### **Session 3: Sector Roles and Expectations**

#### **Panelists:**

- **Stacey Foreman, Sustainable Procurement Coordinator, City of Portland**
- **Javette Hines, SVP Supply Chain Development, Inclusion, and Sustainability, Citi**

GEC is hosting a four-part webinar series titled, “Sustainable Procurement Through a Public and Private Sector Lens.” The series brings together procurement professionals from the public and private sectors to share their unique sector-specific experience in implementing sustainable procurement within their organization. The series addresses four topics including:

- Organizational Motivations
- Sector Successes and Challenges
- Sector Roles and Expectations
- Leadership in Sustainable Procurement

In each installment of the series, panelists provide an overview of their sustainable procurement program, and following panelist presentations, GEC staff facilitates a conversation that address the topic of the webinar series.

The third session was held on October 18, 2018 and featured panelists Stacey Foreman, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Portland, and Javette Hines, SVP Supply Chain Development, Inclusion and Sustainability for Citi. Topics of conversation featured in the third installment included:

- 1) What do you think your external stakeholders expect from you as an organization and what do you think the marketplace expects from your organization at a macro level?
- 2) How does your organization engage with your supplier community?
- 3) If there are differences in how your organization engages with your supply chain, why do those differences exist?

Some takeaways from the discussion include the following:

- Panelist Stacey Foreman said she engages with a variety of stakeholders on behalf of the City of Portland, including groups such as advocacy groups, vendors, and the local community. Examples of engagement include sitting on the board of the SweatFree Consortium, serving as a member of the EPEAT Advisory Council, Chambers of Commerce, and engagement with other agencies in Portland City government. She said her stakeholders expect responsiveness, but

they also want the public sector to take a leadership role in pursuing positive change. She said that these groups also look to the public sector to provide insight as to how procurement takes place on the ground. Understanding the regulatory environment is key to broadening understanding about sustainable procurement and understanding what is possible.

- Panelist Javette Hines said she engages with her supply chains extensively, but also with communities, governments, and business all over the globe. She facilitates Citi's partnerships with organizations such as the United Nations Global Compact and its Sustainable Development Goals, global sustainable reporting entities such as CDP and DJSI, and corporate leadership and sustainability entities internally at Citi. She said stakeholders tend to expect Citi to demonstrate a strong level of accountability and show that Citi is walking the talk. Efforts often revolve around finding ways to develop long lasting partnerships that create harmony between Citi's Corporate sustainability goal and the communities in which Citi maintains a presence.
- Panelist Javette Hines noted that Citi uses a Corporate Social Responsibility Questionnaire (CRQ) as a tool to communicate with and evaluate suppliers. The CRQ ensures that the suppliers that Citi does business with understand Citi's commitment to sustainability and its Code of Conduct. The CRQ helps to align values, but also serves as a mechanism for collecting data when Citi reports on global sustainable reporting platforms such as DJSI and CDP.
- Both Panelists agreed that there seems to be a greater focus on the supply chain amongst the private sector and a stronger focus on the commodity being purchased in the public sector.
- Panelist Stacey Foreman said that the difference in focus is in part the result of how sustainability evolved in the public sphere. She noted that at its beginning the focus was on recycled content of products and so the narrative didn't include the supply chain. Over time this is changing. She said the difference is also a pragmatic result in which technical specifications need to be very specific in the public sector and therefore necessitate a stronger focus on commodity specifications.