GREEN ELECTRONICS COUNCIL

"GEC Webinar Series: Sustainable Procurement Through the Public and Private Sector Lens"

Session 2: Sector Successes and Challenges

Panelists:

- **John Chapman, State Purchasing Manager, State of Colorado**
- **Japen Hollist, Director Digital Transformational Office, SAP Ariba**

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 second session was held on May 31, 2018 and featured panelists Japen Hollist, Director Digital Transformational Office, SAP Ariba, and John Chapman, State Purchasing Manager, State of Colorado. Topics of conversation featured in the second installment included:

1) What do you think the public and private sectors are innately good at when it comes to sustainable procurement?
2) Where does the public sector and private sectors face innate challenges?
3) In what ways does your organization address common challenges such as reporting?
4) What makes you jealous about the other sector?

Some takeaways from the conversation portion of the webinar included the following:

- Both panelists agreed that the public sector is very adept at understanding and responding to the needs of their constituents. Legislation and Executive Orders can offer great clarity in purpose, and legislative bodies can effectively create accountability around sustainability goals.

- Panelist Japen Hollist indicated that he feels the private sector is especially good at enhancing their brand and reputation, and doing things that bring new value to markets, or bring their products to market in a different way. Sustainability is one way to accomplish this goal.
- Panelist John Chapman said he felt that some of the biggest innate challenges facing the public sector is a lack of resources implementing on initiatives such as sustainability, whereas he said the perception is that the private sector is able to throw resources at problems, when warranted.
- Both panelists agreed that one of the dominant challenges facing the public and private sector is finding credible environmental claims. The overwhelming number of ecolabels on the market creates confusion for purchasers looking for good sustainable products.
- Panelist John Chapman indicated that reporting is also a substantial problem in the public sector. He noted that reporting is challenging because internal data can be flawed, and there are seldom e-procurement systems available that allow you to gather data internally on sustainability. He also noted that government places a high priority on inclusion, thus requiring the state to interact with many vendors who have a wide range of capability when it comes to providing and reporting upon sustainable products.
- Panelist Japen Hollist noted that he feels reporting is a core problem facing all institutional purchasers, which is why he works for SAP Ariba. In his role he can help organizations transform through better data capabilities. He noted that data is important because people tend not to change the way they purchase if they do not see a reason to do so, and data is an effective way to demonstrate benefit for pursuing a more sustainable approach.