



Natural History Museum

From 10 September 2020 to 27 November 2020

The NHM are a fantastic organisation and I love the fact they have pledged to become the first museum in the world to set a science-based carbon reduction target. What a goal! The NHM have a clear commitment to sustainability that is embedded within their organisational work culture. You can see it in everything they do: from using solar panels in their buildings to their drive to reduce waste and the responsibly sourced produce in their café.

Being a procurement specialist, I was particularly interested in their Responsible Procurement Strategy. As a trusted source of knowledge, the NHM recognise they need to take the lead in spreading the message of using resources responsibly. A big part of their strategy is their plan to encourage NHM's suppliers to be 'advocates of the planet' encouraging suppliers to commit to a range of initiatives such as reporting their carbon emissions, publishing information on their environmental activity and sharing resources with and supporting SMEs. One of my tasks was to work with the NHM to develop and implement a strategy to meet this objective. Recruiting their top 30 suppliers (in terms of spend and business criticality) as 'advocates for the planet' is a smart way of getting their suppliers on board with the sustainability agenda.

I also helped the Museum to get the most out of their membership of Electronics Watch, which all LUPC members are affiliated to, but many are not fully aware of the benefits this entails. Their Public Buyer Toolkit is really useful as it supports affiliates' communication with contractors and promotes contract compliance within their supply chain. I guided NHM on how to use the toolkit to apply the Electronics Watch contract conditions (included in the National Desktop and Notebook Agreement). This helped them identify the factory locations where their goods are being assembled. With this information, links can be established between the NHM and its ICT suppliers, strengthening their capacity to monitor workers' conditions in NHM's supply chains.

A key part of the Museum's Modern Slavery Statement is its commitment to utilise its Sedex membership to help it operate responsibly, protect workers and source ethically. Sedex is one of the world's largest collaborative platforms for sharing responsible sourcing data on supply chains and the Museum wants to increase the participation of the platform amongst its own suppliers. One of their goals linked to their Sedex membership is to ensure that all garments worn by Museum staff and contractors, as well as all museum related garments for sale at retail outlets, are manufactured in factories that are subject to regular social audits.

I checked all their garment suppliers and contacted those who were not on Sedex (including indirect suppliers that provide uniforms for their front of house staff) to include them on their database. I then verified self-assessment questionnaires, social audits and workers information available. This information will now be used by the Procurement team to engage with suppliers to improve workers conditions in their supply chains.

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It has been an absolute pleasure having Marisol within the team. Her time here has reinforced the value of procurement and sustainability working closely together and has helped us better understand the gravity of the task at hand in achieving our aspirations. Marisol's input has also been invaluable in helping determine the best approach for identifying sustainable procurement priorities which will influence our future plans.

Kimberley Lewis, Environment & Sustainability Officer at NHM.

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