

Our Supply Chain Charter

Together we have the energy to transform our communities

We are
SWITCHED ON

We are
ADAPTABLE

We take
PRIDE

Electricity
north west
Bringing energy to your door

At Electricity North West we champion the interests of the North West and we're proud that it's our network that connects communities and helps to keep the electricity flowing.

Our purpose sets out that 'Together we have the energy to transform our communities' and suppliers in our supply chain help us to achieve this.

In line with our 'Purpose and Principles', our Supply Chain Charter aims to set out our expectation of all who are or wish to become suppliers within our supply chain and in return, what you can expect from us.



Procurement opportunities

Our customers are at the heart of what we do, and we are committed to the ethical procurement of goods, services and works to ensure we generate maximum value for our customers and the communities in which they live. As a business that applies the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016, we aim to operate a transparent and fair procurement process. When we are sourcing goods, services and works above the relevant EU Procurement Threshold, we ordinarily use the Achilles Utilities Vendor Database (Achilles UVDB) as our pre-qualification system. This is a fair, open and transparent system which any supplier can join (visit www.achilles.com for further information).

Whether the value of the procurement exercise is above or below the EU Threshold we will, as appropriate, use a combination of Achilles UVDB and local arrangements for the purchase of goods, services and works. In addition, we will endeavour to:

- Include clear specifications for all procurements.
- Ensure that the local community and supply chain are informed of new opportunities and given fair opportunity to compete.

Ethical standards

High ethical standards are required throughout all our business operations.

- We take a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption and are committed to acting professionally, fairly and with integrity in all our business dealings and relationships wherever we operate, and we expect the same of our suppliers.
- We act with integrity and will treat suppliers (all tiers) with respect. We expect all suppliers to behave in the same way.

Health and safety

Industry leading health and safety performance is an essential part of our business.

- Our suppliers at any tier must consistently meet, as a minimum, our health and safety notified requirements. For high risk works and services we may use the Verify Audit Service provided by Achilles or a similar service for additional assurance.
- We target being a zero-accident organisation. To support this, we expect our suppliers to identify and eliminate any hazardous situations in the work place continuously.

Performance and reporting

We will provide honest and clear feedback on performance, and our expectation is that suppliers will be open and transparent and provide information as requested. We aim to:

- Give clear and precise information on our requirements covering safety, quality, time and cost, to achieve a 'right first time' approach.
- Use objective data to analyse key indicators on supplier performance and regularly communicate potential issues to suppliers. We will be open with our suppliers about the data we are using to undertake this analysis.
- Use lessons learnt and knowledge sharing with the supply chain to aid and inform ongoing activities and continuous improvement.

Corporate Social Responsibility - our purpose led responsibility framework

As we work with our local communities to transition to a low carbon business model, it is vital that we behave in a manner that is recognised to be responsible, acknowledging the impact and the transformative role we and our suppliers have in our local communities. This is articulated in our approach to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) through our 'Transforming our communities' purpose led responsibility framework. This incorporates our approach to working with our suppliers, and this Supply Chain Charter is part of our framework.

Real living wage

We are an accredited real living wage employer which means that our employees are paid at least the real living wage.

Additionally, we're required to show that those working for our key framework contractors are already paid at a level at least equal to the real living wage or that these contractors are working to achieve these pay levels.

To ensure we continue to adhere to the requirements of a real living wage employer, we have included a real living wage requirement in our tender documents.

Modern slavery

We have a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery and are committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business dealings and relationships. We are also committed to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure modern slavery is not taking place in our own business or in any part of our supply chains.

Environment

Our plan, 'Leading the North West to zero carbon', outlines our ambition to meet the region's carbon emissions target and illustrates the initiatives and investments which will ensure we take a significant step on the road to achieving rapid decarbonisation. We are committed to working with suppliers and local communities to transition to a low carbon economy and we expect our suppliers to understand their impact on local and wider communities. We will seek suppliers who share the same philosophies and are willing to use comparable environmental practices, including energy efficiency, waste reduction and recycling to achieve a sustainable reduction in carbon footprint.

Our purpose and principles

Our purpose and principles are set out in this Supply Chain Charter. We look forward to working with current and potential suppliers who wish to join us on our journey and are willing to demonstrate acceptance of these and to work with us. We are open to discussion and feedback on the approach set out in this document and if you would like to discuss any matters raised, please contact: procurement@enwl.co.uk