

**SOUTH
KEN
ZEN+**

SUPPLY CHAIN CHARTER

August 2026

**SOU↓H KEN
CUL↑TURE QUAR↑TER**



INTRODUCTION

South Ken ZEN+

Since 2022, the 22 members of the Exhibition Road Cultural Group (ERCG) have joined forces to deploy our world-leading creativity and expertise in science and the arts to collectively tackle the climate, biodiversity and justice crisis. Our ambition is to do more, and do it more quickly by working together and set an example for others about the art of the possible.

The South Kensington Zero Emissions (ZE) Nature Positive (N+) Programme aims to amplify and accelerate the work that is already happening across our membership to reduce emissions, foster sustainable operations and tackle the effects of climate change through open and transparent collaboration, knowledge-sharing, research and practice.

The South Ken ZEN+ Programme focusses on four priority areas for collective action:



ZERO EMISSIONS

When the carbon emitted into the atmosphere equals the carbon removed from it.



NATURE POSITIVE

When species and ecosystems are restored and regenerating, not declining.



CIRCULAR ECONOMIES

When resources are conserved through responsible production, consumption, reuse and recovery of products and services to minimise the impacts on and improve the regeneration of natural systems.



SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

When low/zero emissions forms of responsible public and private transportation are used to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions.

These themes are intrinsically linked to five discrete areas in the [ISO 20400 Standard for Sustainable Procurement \(2017\)](#) which are material to our environmental ambitions.

They are:

- 01 Climate change mitigation
- 02 Climate change adaptation
- 03 Sustainable resource use
- 04 Protection of the environment, biodiversity and the protection of natural habitats
- 05 Prevention of pollution

The scope of this Charter reflects the five areas above, which focus on environmental sustainability. In revising this, the second edition of our Charter, we have taken the decision keep the focus on environmental sustainability – which is still discretionary, unlike sustainability in, for example, labour practices (which are now a matter of legal compliance).

This Charter

This Charter has been developed by the South Ken ZEN+ Procurement Delivery Group and is informed by the South Ken ZEN+ priority areas.

It sets out our *own commitments* as well as the *expectations of our suppliers* and wider supply chain.

It is intended to help members improve understanding and performance in relation to the South Ken ZEN+ priority areas, demonstrate our commitments, define expectations and track progress for ourselves and our suppliers.

All images were kindly supplied by our members.



OUR APPROACH

The intent of this Charter is to supplement and inspire participating organisations’ sustainability policies and processes, and support them to progress these.

The organisations participating in South Ken ZEN+ differ in scale, finance, complexity and levels of procurement maturity. As such, each of us will take a unique approach towards how we embed this Charter and apply its principles in relation to our chosen spend categories and contract-value thresholds.

We recognise that this diversity of scale and maturity also applies to our suppliers. Notwithstanding this, we will expect all our suppliers to work with us to help us meet the commitments of this Charter, in a proportionate manner. It is generally agreed that those suppliers commanding higher levels of spend or criticality will be required to rise to greater challenges.

This Charter sets a constructive direction and signatories are committing to collect and share performance data and learnings, and maximise opportunities for improvement. We aim to go faster together, and by collaborating, accelerate our collective progress towards a net-zero, nature positive future.

- As Signatories to this Charter, we are committing to:**
- 01 include the Charter in our procurement activities;
 - 02 periodically monitor and report on our supply chain emissions performance;
 - 03 actively work towards meeting the Purchaser Commitments set out below;
 - 04 participate and share best practice, intelligence and opportunities for collaboration in procurement and emissions reductions;
 - 05 include sustainability criteria in the assessment and selection of our own suppliers (where material and proportionate to do so)
 - 06 expect our suppliers to support us in meeting the objectives of the Charter; and
 - 07 periodically review this Charter to check for purpose and appropriateness.

This Charter will be reviewed on a **biennial basis** by the members of the South Ken ZEN+ Procurement Delivery Group.

South Ken Culture Quarter member signatories



PURCHASER COMMITMENTS

THEME 1	THEME 2	THEME 3	THEME 4	THEME 5
Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Sustainable Resource Use	Protection of Environment, Biodiversity and Restoration of Natural Habitats	Prevention of Pollution
As Signatories to this Charter, we will: P1.1 establish and track an emissions footprint for procurement using the existing South Ken ZEN+ Emissions Reporting Framework; P1.2 develop a high-level pathway to reduce Scope 3 emissions from our supply chain by 2030 including interim targets, informed by the South Ken ZEN Emissions Reporting Framework; P1.3 aim to procure goods and services from suppliers that have committed to science-based net-zero targets in line with the Paris Agreement, in order to achieve Scope 3 emissions reductions both up- and down-stream; P1.4 support each other to develop this and, using the data from the Reporting Framework, explore opportunities for collaboration (e.g. shared procurement); P1.5 use environmental sustainability criteria in the assessment, selection and management of our suppliers; and P1.6 ensure the inclusion of relevant sustainability requirements – including this Charter – within our procurement processes and contracts – for example specifying the use of sustainable materials and practices, low-carbon vehicles and energy sources, or levels of recycling.	As Signatories to this Charter, we will: P2.1 encourage proportionate climate change adaptation risk assessments for ourselves and our suppliers by 2028, noting that many larger suppliers will already be required to do this; P2.2 work with suppliers and the wider supply chain to understand climate change adaptation risks and manage them together as needed by 2030; P2.3 share climate change risks and responses with each other in the spirit of collaboration; and P2.4 share best practice and guidance through the Charter peer network.	As Signatories to this Charter, we will: P3.1 use and foster circular economy practices in our own operations such as reusable cups and recycled paper; P3.2 participate and play a proactive role in reuse networks; P3.3 engage with our suppliers to encourage circular economy practices such as refurbished furniture, design for repairability, and taking back packaging and products at end of life; P3.4 when procuring, identify suppliers who use sustainable materials and energy, reduce their waste impact through effective waste management processes, and adhere to circular economy principles; P3.5 take active steps towards the elimination of excessive packaging and single-use plastics through volume reduction and an increase of recycled content; P3.6 be accountable to each other by reporting periodically on waste performance through the South Ken ZEN+ Emissions Reporting Framework and other mechanisms; and P3.7 collaborate where this can help us do better – for example creating shared approaches to waste streams or shared suppliers.	As Signatories to this Charter, we will: P4.1 work with suppliers to understand where there may be material nature and biodiversity impacts in our operations and value chain, for example due to pollutants or land use; P4.2 work to reduce negative biodiversity impacts and increase positive ones. For example, reducing pollution from products we use in our operations and supply chains, and managing our open spaces to be greener and more nature-friendly; P4.3 collectively explore robust and credible approaches to schemes for supporting environmental recovery and nature-based solutions; P4.4 deploy sustainable methods and practices in the management of our own estates and landscapes, following best practice ecological management guidelines, planting climate resilient and native species, avoiding the use of herbicides and pesticides and maximising opportunities for nature to thrive; and P4.5 proactively share messaging about how to support biodiversity and nature.	As Signatories to this Charter, we will: P5.1 use the South Ken ZEN+ Emissions Reporting Framework to establish a fleet vehicle baseline; P5.2 ask our major suppliers what vehicles they use and how they plan to reduce emissions, noting our goal for net-zero deliveries and services by 2040; P5.3 collaborate on joint projects to reduce emissions from logistics for deliveries and waste; P5.4 proactively explore a supply chain coordination agreement to minimise vehicle movements in 2025/26; P5.5 coordinate fleet purchases for EV vehicles where helpful; P5.6 use the South Ken ZEN+ Emissions Reporting Framework to conduct staff & visitor travel surveys where needed; P5.7 invest in ways to encourage more sustainable travel amongst our staff and students (e.g. bike racks and shower facilities); and P5.8 use our range of communication channels to encourage all who come to our sites use the Sustainable Travel Hierarchy.

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM OUR SUPPLIERS

The dual environmental crises of climate change and biodiversity loss are daunting, but we stand a better chance of doing something about them if we act together. We must not only limit or prevent further climate change and biodiversity loss, but also adapt to changes that we can no longer stop.

This section sets out how we believe our suppliers can support our vision and commitments as part of the South Ken ZEN+ Programme. We invite our suppliers to support us in this collective ambition to reduce our emissions and reach net-zero by 2040.

As organisations striving to reduce emissions, we recognise that we also need to adapt and improve our own procurement practices to encompass this Charter. A pragmatic and collaborative approach with our supply chains will be critical to our success.

**As part of this Charter,
we expect our suppliers to:**

- 01** improve sustainability and reduce emissions and waste;
- 02** take proactive measures to calculate and then reduce their emissions;
- 03** develop sustainable and low carbon alternatives, wherever possible, within the goods and services they provide;
- 04** support nature recovery and encourage efforts to reduce impacts to biodiversity and prevent pollution within their own supply chains; and
- 05** make us aware if they are in receipt of any environmental enforcement action or sanction.

For those suppliers whose activities have a material impact on our ambitions, we will require them to develop a clear understanding of their carbon footprint and implement a plan to reduce it. We will encourage continuous improvement through the occasional monitoring of progress.



SUPPLIER EXPECTATIONS

THEME 1	THEME 2	THEME 3	THEME 4	THEME 5
Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Sustainable Resource Use	Protection of Environment, Biodiversity and Restoration of Natural Habitats	Prevention of Pollution
All suppliers shall proactively: S1.1 be working towards reducing their emissions to net-zero (ideally through the use of Carbon Reduction Plans); S1.2 work towards setting science-based net-zero targets in line with the Paris Agreement; S1.3 share their carbon footprints (Scope 1, 2 and preferably Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions on request), demonstrate progress and share successes; S1.4 work with us to develop and offer innovative solutions that support our South Ken ZEN+ ambitions; and S1.5 adopt sound environmental management practices and align with recognised standards (such as ISO 14001, B-Corp Status, ISO 20400 etc). Larger Suppliers are expected to report on progress against their Carbon Reduction Plans demonstrating progress towards their goals.	All suppliers shall proactively: S2.1 recognise immediate risks of extreme weather and embed mitigations into business continuity processes to ensure service delivery can be maintained. S2.2 recognise, react to and mitigate future risks to the supply of goods and services posed by the Climate and Biodiversity Crisis (including extreme weather events), and seek to ensure appropriate resilience; and S2.3 develop and provide goods and services that are more resilient to the impact of extreme weather events. Large Suppliers / Qualifying Suppliers are expected to report on climate risks facing their organisation through the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB)'s IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards.	All suppliers shall proactively: S3.1 demonstrate robust application of the waste hierarchy in the delivery of goods and services to our organisations, ensuring minimal waste to landfill; S3.2 provide products that can be reused, refurbished, repaired or recycled as many times as possible to keep them at their highest value in support of the principles of a Circular Economy; S3.3 work with us in eradicating unnecessary consumer single-use plastics, and minimise the use of single-use plastics where unavoidable; S3.4 include sustainability criteria on the assessment and selection of their own suppliers, where material and proportionate to do so; S3.5 increase water use efficiency through measures such as recycling and re-use of grey water in manufacturing, desalination, water harvesting and waste-water treatment; and S3.6 source produce locally where possible to help support local farmers and local businesses. We recognise that packaging is essential in some areas, but we expect all our suppliers be striving to adopt sustainable packaging practices such as reusable packaging, recycled content and take-back schemes.	All suppliers shall proactively: S4.1 eradicate or reduce the use of substances harmful to the environment such as pesticides, herbicides and eco-toxic products; S4.2 source ethical and environmentally friendly produce i.e. organic, free range, Marine Stewardship Council certified fish, Marine Conservation Society 'fish to eat', RSPCA Assured, Fairtrade, Linking Environment And Farming (LEAF) etc.; S4.3 avoid the use of palm oil or use palm oil certified sustainable by a recognised scheme when unavoidable; and S4.4 make us aware of any activities they may be carrying out or supporting that contribute to nature recovery (eg. volunteering schemes, planting/gardening programmes; improvements on sites; litter-picks, environmental investment schemes etc) Suppliers trading in cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soya and wood, as well as products derived from these commodities, should be able to provide evidence that they are conducting / starting to conduct due diligence on the supply chain to ensure they do not result from deforestation, forest degradation or breaches of local environmental and social laws. All wood and paper used in products should be independently certified by a credible, globally applicable certification scheme such as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or equivalent.	All suppliers shall proactively: S5.1 use low-carbon deliveries where possible, and explore creative and innovative solutions to consolidating deliveries; S5.2 bring their proven experience and expertise to work with us to reduce traffic to our sites through logistics consolidation; S5.3 strive to increase the number of low emission vehicles in their fleet or through their logistics providers; and S5.4 protect clean water sources by minimising the use of pollutants and toxic chemicals, substituting for non-hazardous alternatives where available / possible.

SOUTH KEN ZEN+
SUPPLY CHAIN CHARTER

SOUTH
KEN
ZEN+

Purchaser Commitments		Supplier Expectations		
As Signatories to this Charter, we will:		All suppliers shall proactively:		
THEME 1 Climate Change Mitigation	P1.1	establish and track an emissions footprint for procurement using the existing South Ken ZEN+ Emissions Reporting Framework;	S1.1	be working towards reducing their emissions to net-zero (ideally through the use of Carbon Reduction Plans);
	P1.2	develop a high-level pathway to reduce Scope 3 emissions from our supply chain by 2030 including interim targets, informed by the South Ken ZEN Emissions Reporting Framework;	S1.2	work towards setting science-based net-zero targets in line with the Paris Agreement;
	P1.3	aim to procure goods and services from suppliers that have committed to science-based net-zero targets in line with the Paris Agreement, in order to achieve Scope 3 emissions reductions both up- and down-stream;	S1.3	share their carbon footprints (Scope 1, 2 and preferably Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions on request), demonstrate progress and share successes;
	P1.4	support each other to develop this and, using the data from the Reporting Framework, explore opportunities for collaboration (e.g. shared procurement);	S1.4	work with us to develop and offer innovative solutions that support our South Ken ZEN+ ambitions; and
	P1.5	use environmental sustainability criteria in the assessment, selection and management of our suppliers; and	S1.5	adopt sound environmental management practices and align with recognised standards (such as ISO 14001, B-Corp Status, ISO 20400 etc).
	P1.6	ensure the inclusion of relevant sustainability requirements – including this Charter – within our procurement processes and contracts – for example specifying the use of sustainable materials and practices, low-carbon vehicles and energy sources, or levels of recycling.	Larger Suppliers are expected to report on progress against their Carbon Reduction Plans demonstrating progress towards their goals.	
THEME 2 Climate Change Adaptation	P2.1	encourage proportionate climate change adaptation risk assessments for ourselves and our suppliers by 2028, noting that many larger suppliers will already be required to do this;	S2.1	recognise immediate risks of extreme weather and embed mitigations into business continuity processes to ensure service delivery can be maintained.
	P2.2	work with suppliers and the wider supply chain to understand climate change adaptation risks and manage them together as needed by 2030;	S2.2	recognise, react to and mitigate future risks to the supply of goods and services posed by the Climate and Biodiversity Crisis (including extreme weather events), and seek to ensure appropriate resilience; and
	P2.3	share climate change risks and responses with each other in the spirit of collaboration; and	S2.3	develop and provide goods and services that are more resilient to the impact of extreme weather events.
	P2.4	share best practice and guidance through the Charter peer network.	Large Suppliers / Qualifying Suppliers are expected to report on climate risks facing their organisation through the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB)’s IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards.	
THEME 3 Sustainable Resource Use	P3.1	use and foster circular economy practices in our own operations such as reusable cups and recycled paper;	S3.1	demonstrate robust application of the waste hierarchy in the delivery of goods and services to our organisations, ensuring minimal waste to landfill;
	P3.2	participate and play a proactive role in reuse networks;	S3.2	provide products that can be reused, refurbished, repaired or recycled as many times as possible to keep them at their highest value in support of the principles of a Circular Economy;
	P3.3	engage with our suppliers to encourage circular economy practices such as refurbished furniture, design for repairability, and taking back packaging and products at end of life;	S3.3	work with us in eradicating unnecessary consumer single-use plastics, and minimise the use of single-use plastics where unavoidable;
	P3.4	when procuring, identify suppliers who use sustainable materials and energy, reduce their waste impact through effective waste management processes, and adhere to circular economy principles;	S3.4	include sustainability criteria on the assessment and selection of their own suppliers, where material and proportionate to do so;
	P3.5	take active steps towards the elimination of excessive packaging and single-use plastics through volume reduction and an increase of recycled content;	S3.5	increase water use efficiency through measures such as recycling and re-use of grey water in manufacturing, desalination, water harvesting and waste-water treatment; and
	P3.6	be accountable to each other by reporting periodically on waste performance through the South Ken ZEN+ Emissions Reporting Framework and other mechanisms; and	S3.6	source produce locally where possible to help support local farmers and local businesses.
	P3.7	collaborate where this can help us do better – for example creating shared approaches to waste streams or shared suppliers.	We recognise that packaging is essential in some areas, but we expect all our suppliers be striving to adopt sustainable packaging practices such as reusable packaging, recycled content and take-back schemes.	
THEME 4 Protection of Environment, Biodiversity and Restoration of Natural Habitats	P4.1	work with suppliers to understand where there may be material nature and biodiversity impacts in our operations and value chain, for example due to pollutants or land use;	S4.1	eradicate or reduce the use of substances harmful to the environment such as pesticides, herbicides and eco-toxic products;
	P4.2	work to reduce negative biodiversity impacts and increase positive ones. For example, reducing pollution from products we use in our operations and supply chains, and managing our open spaces to be greener and more nature-friendly;	S4.2	source ethical and environmentally friendly produce i.e. organic, free range, Marine Stewardship Council certified fish, Marine Conservation Society ‘fish to eat’, RSPCA Assured, Fairtrade, Linking Environment And Farming (LEAF) etc.;
	P4.3	collectively explore robust and credible approaches to schemes for supporting environmental recovery and nature-based solutions;	S4.3	avoid the use of palm oil or use palm oil certified sustainable by a recognised scheme when unavoidable;
	P4.4	deploy sustainable methods and practices in the management of our own estates and landscapes, following best practice ecological management guidelines, planting climate resilient and native species, avoiding the use of herbicides and pesticides and maximising opportunities for nature to thrive; and	S4.4	make us aware of any activities they may be carrying out or supporting that contribute to nature recovery (eg. volunteering schemes, planting/gardening programmes; improvements on sites; litter-picks, environmental investment schemes etc);
	P4.5	proactively share messaging about how to support biodiversity and nature.	Suppliers trading in cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soya and wood, as well as products derived from these commodities, should be able to provide evidence that they are conducting / starting to conduct due diligence on the supply chain to ensure they do not result from deforestation, forest degradation or breaches of local environmental and social laws.	
		All wood and paper used in products should be independently certified by a credible, globally applicable certification scheme such as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or equivalent.		
THEME 5 Prevention of Pollution	P5.1	use the South Ken ZEN+ Emissions Reporting Framework to establish a fleet vehicle baseline;	S5.1	use low-carbon deliveries where possible, and explore creative and innovative solutions to consolidating deliveries;
	P5.2	ask our major suppliers what vehicles they use and how they plan to reduce emissions, noting our goal for net-zero deliveries and services by 2040;	S5.2	bring their proven experience and expertise to work with us to reduce traffic to our sites through logistics consolidation;
	P5.3	collaborate on joint projects to reduce emissions from logistics for deliveries and waste;	S5.3	strive to increase the number of low emission vehicles in their fleet or through their logistics providers; and
	P5.4	proactively explore a supply chain coordination agreement to minimise vehicle movements in 2025/26;	S5.4	protect clean water sources by minimising the use of pollutants and toxic chemicals, substituting for non-hazardous alternatives where available / possible.
	P5.5	coordinate fleet purchases for EV vehicles where helpful;		
	P5.6	use the South Ken ZEN+ Emissions Reporting Framework to conduct staff & visitor travel surveys where needed;		
	P5.7	invest in ways to encourage more sustainable travel amongst our staff and students (e.g. bike racks and shower facilities); and		
	P5.8	use our range of communication channels to encourage all who come to our sites use the Sustainable Travel Hierarchy.		