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## Best Practices in Sustainable Procurement for IT Goods and Services

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Simon Mingay's 22-page analysis of ways to identify the material sustainability issues related to the IT industry provides readers with best practices to be integrated into their organizations' procurement programs for IT goods and services.

Although many organizations base their procurement processes on ethical and business responsibility principles, Mingay finds that organizations must also focus on commercial and strategic risk in order to provide the necessary value expected from the procured goods or services. He suggests that many IT divisions and procurement teams are confused by sustainability-related messaging from vendors. Mingay provides a rationale for exploring providers management and performance of their supply chain to gain deeper insight into the maturity of their offerings.

Although standard procurement processes which include a total cost of ownership analysis (TCO) as well as an in-depth investigation into the service level agreement (SLA) should still be the guiding principles, the need to mitigate ever growing supply-chain-related risks requires the need to balance these principles with suitably rationalized and prioritized sustainability criteria within an RFI/RFP, during contract negotiations, and discussions with vendors.

Mingay recommends nine actions for teams to take including the need to establish a policy for sustainable procurement, disregarding corporate sustainability rankings, and ensuring clear responsibility and accountabilities across the full IT service life cycle.

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Minga, S. (2012, March). *Best practices in sustainable procurement for IT goods and services* (Rep. No. G00232240). Stamford, CT: Gartner.