



# Contractor Code of Conduct

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City of Portland Stakeholder Engagement

# Today's Agenda

- Program overview
- Proposed changes based on feedback
- Input on implementation, support, funding



# Meeting Technology



- Screen share, polls and break out group convos to gather input
- Chat available for comments. SP team will be responding to questions as we go.
- Set up your view to see everyone at once
- To minimize noise, we'll remain muted until break out groups
- The session is being recorded.

# What is a Contractor Code of Conduct?



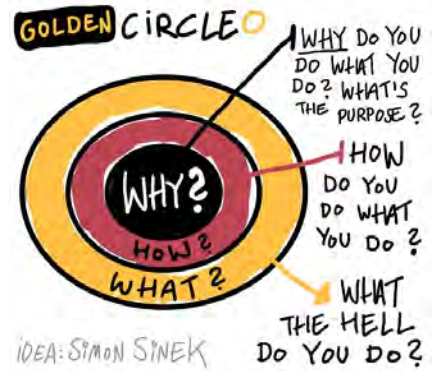
A Contractor Code of Conduct defines City values that will be used to assess a vendor’s “responsibility.”

To be eligible to do business with the City, Contractors will agree to be responsible by following the principles and guidelines in the Code of Conduct that demonstrate social and environmental responsibility.

# Why have a Code of Conduct?

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to formalize City expectations of the Contractors we do business with in order to advance City values of integrity, transparency, fair access, environmental stewardship, respect for human rights, and accountability.

The Code of Conduct will complement existing City procurement policies, programs, and initiatives that support a variety of City values and goals, including those around equity, greenhouse gas reduction, and community health.



# The Opportunity



We are at a time where action and leadership is critical. The City of Portland has the opportunity to lead the country in expanding the depth and breadth of sustainable purchasing.

Based on current research and experiences of forward thinking global businesses, organizations improve their practices when the business environment encourages new kinds of competition that go beyond the economic status quo. By including a variety standards we shift markets to operate on more inclusive values.

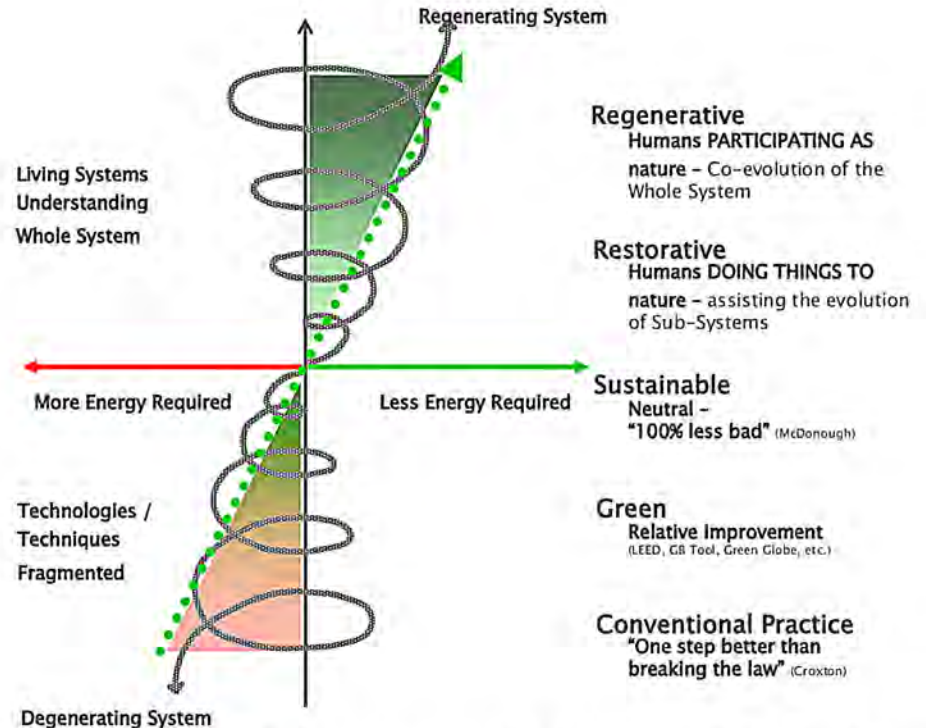
# What Problem is this addressing?



Business as usual encourages companies to externalize costs to society.

Business as usual focuses on accumulating financial capital while reducing other forms of capital in the process (e.g. natural, social, cultural capital).

The status quo is not viable.



## Trajectory of Environmentally Responsible Design

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# How is the City Responding?

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The City of Portland is known for its commitment and leadership to advance sustainability. The City is also committed to responding to working in partnership to advance equity.

The City's social and environmental commitments communicate leadership. And **we must follow up by requiring the money we spend to go to businesses that do better than the bare minimum or the status quo,** because the status quo is currently failing society as a whole.



# Leadership Approach

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The Code and VRQ lift up businesses who can be successful operating in ways designed to reduce harm and even improve the condition of workers, communities and the environment. By thinking holistically when making contracting and purchasing decisions, the City creates markets that support business leadership and innovation in sustainability practices.

The City proposes to take a collaborative approach to working with vendors to advance holistic sustainability goals; set expectations based on the size of the business (sole proprietors to multinational corporations) and the risks of different types of services; and offer support and training to increase capacity of all sizes of companies as well as City staff to monitor and act in compliance with our ideals.

# How did we arrive here?

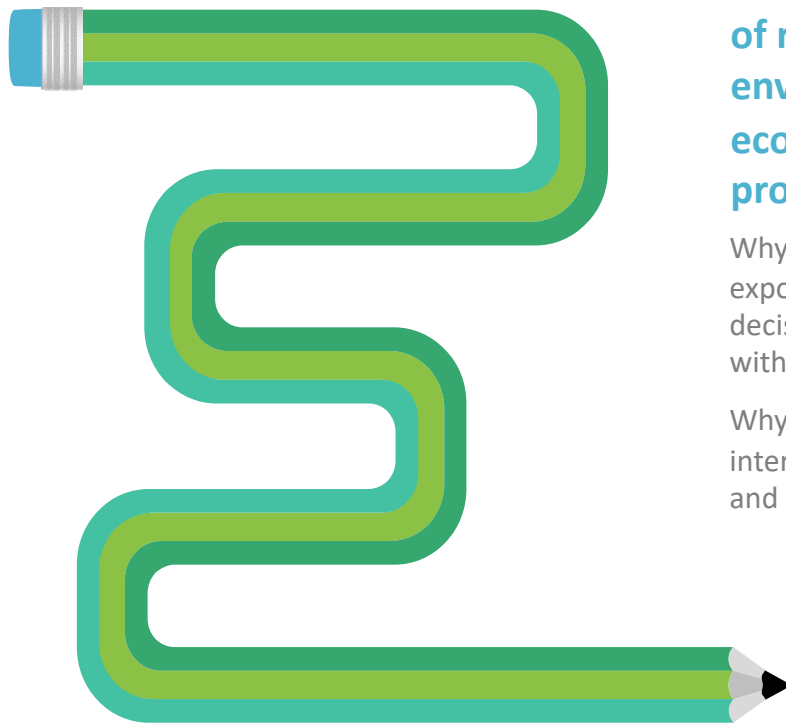
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**Increased pressure to have the City do business with ethical businesses that are also good corporate citizens.**

Who: labor advocacy groups, human rights groups, environmental advocacy groups, community members

**Growing agreement that the lack of a robust vendor “responsibility” check promotes unfair competition in procurement decisions.**

Who: some members of the public, advocacy groups, and contracting community



**Increased public expectation of responsibility for environmental, social, and economic impacts of procurement decisions.**

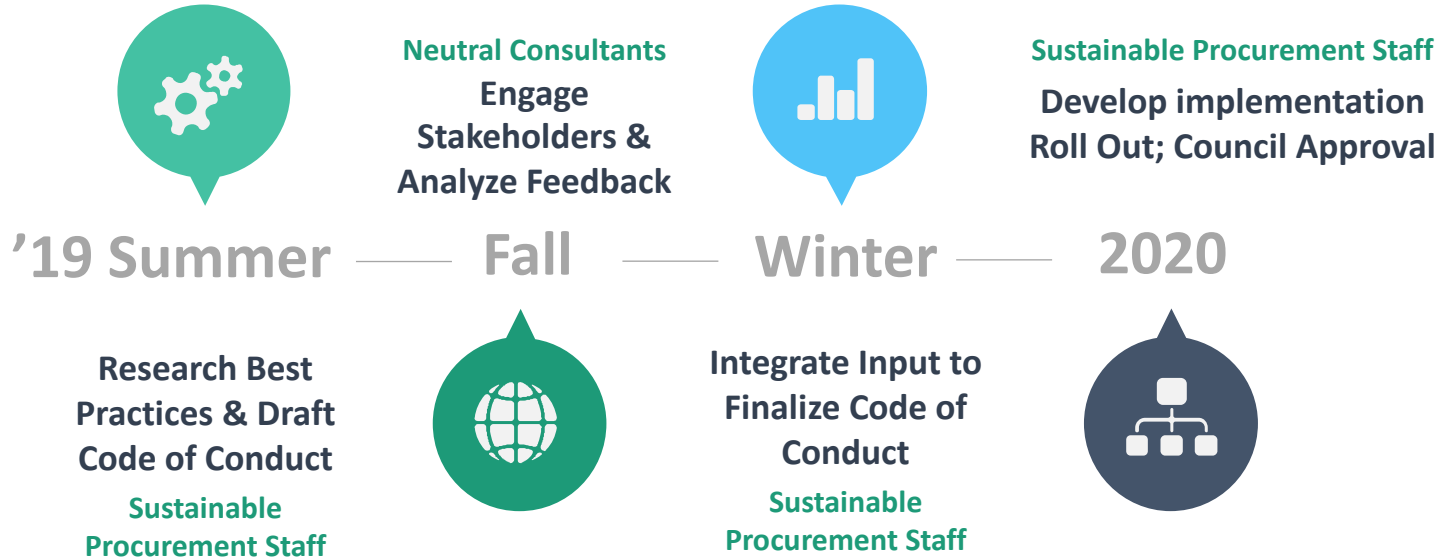
Why: real-time data and information exposes links between procurement decisions and the actions of entities within the City’s supply chain

Why: Portland is lagging behind international declarations, conventions and best practices in procurement.

We are following through on a promise made when the Sustainable Procurement Policy was updated in 2018.

# Development Process

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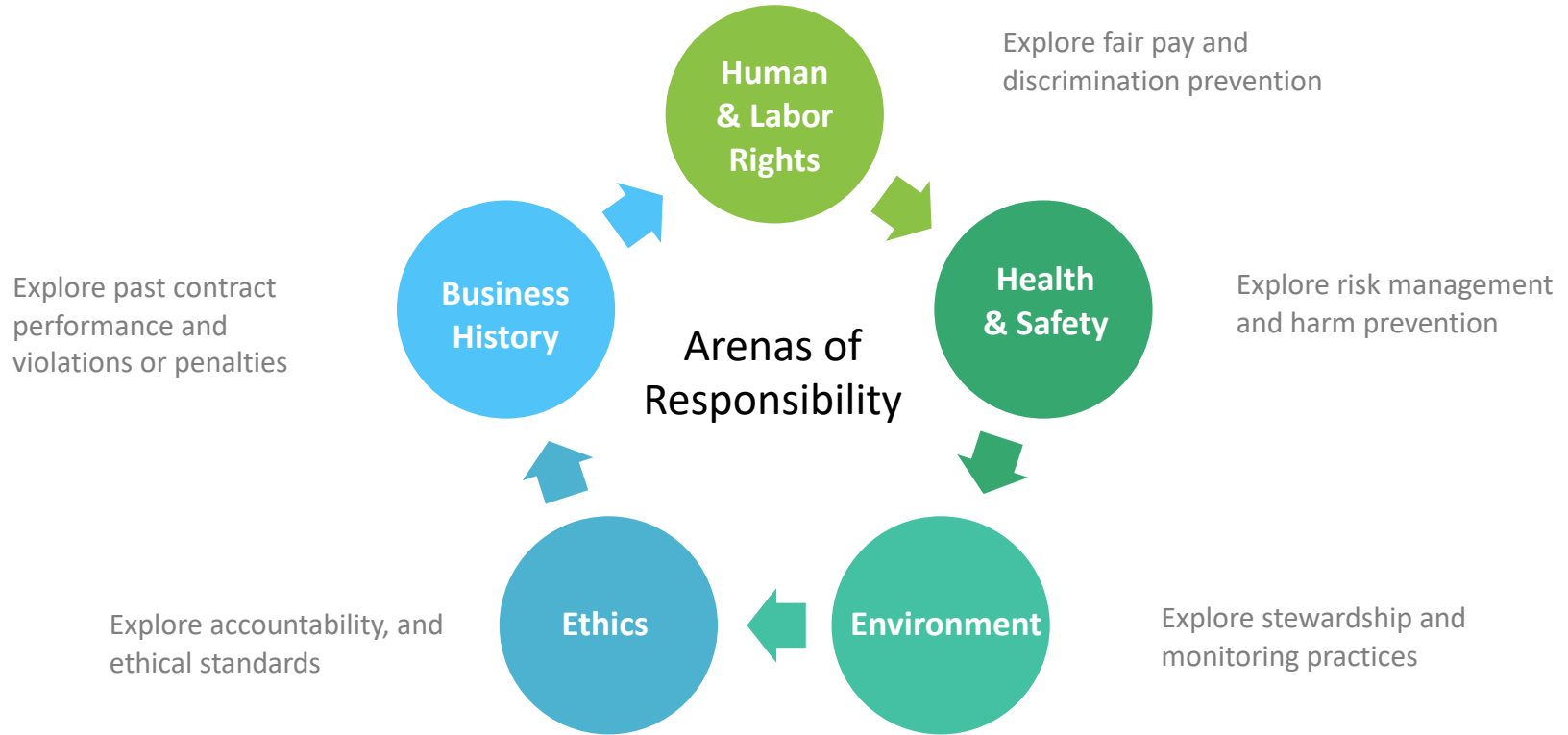


# Stakeholder Engagement



# What is being considered?

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# Proposed Process

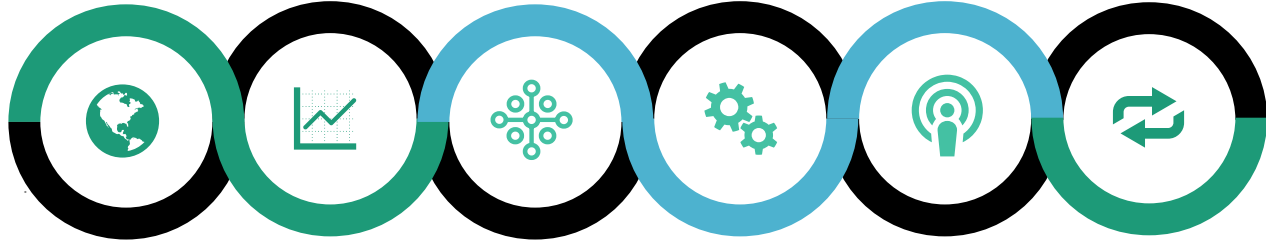
**Sign Code  
of Conduct**

**Determine  
Responsibility**

**Monitor  
Performance**

**6  
Steps**

**Vendor Action  
City Action**



**Complete  
Questionnaire**

**Reference Code  
in Contracts**

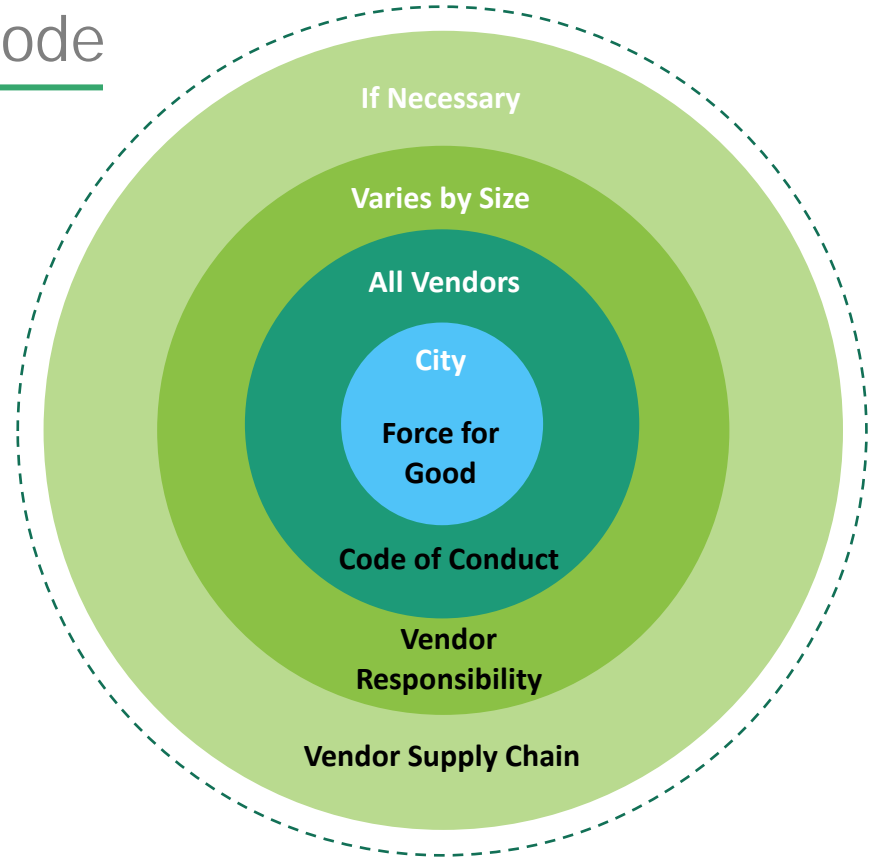
**Provide periodic  
updates**

# Universal Application of Code

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The Code of Conduct's foundational principles will apply universally to

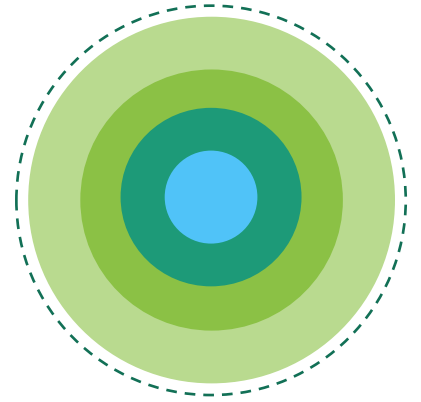
- All Vendors
- All City Solicitations
- All City Contracts



## Scaled Application of VRQ

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- **Sole Proprietors** respond only to subset of questions about business history (“base VRQ questions”)
- **Small businesses** respond to “base VRQ questions” plus, if awarded contract, participate in sustainable business technical assistance and recognition program (waived for B Corps or equivalent)
- **Large businesses** complete full VRQ through 3rd party system. If awarded contract, potential for commitment to continuous improvement





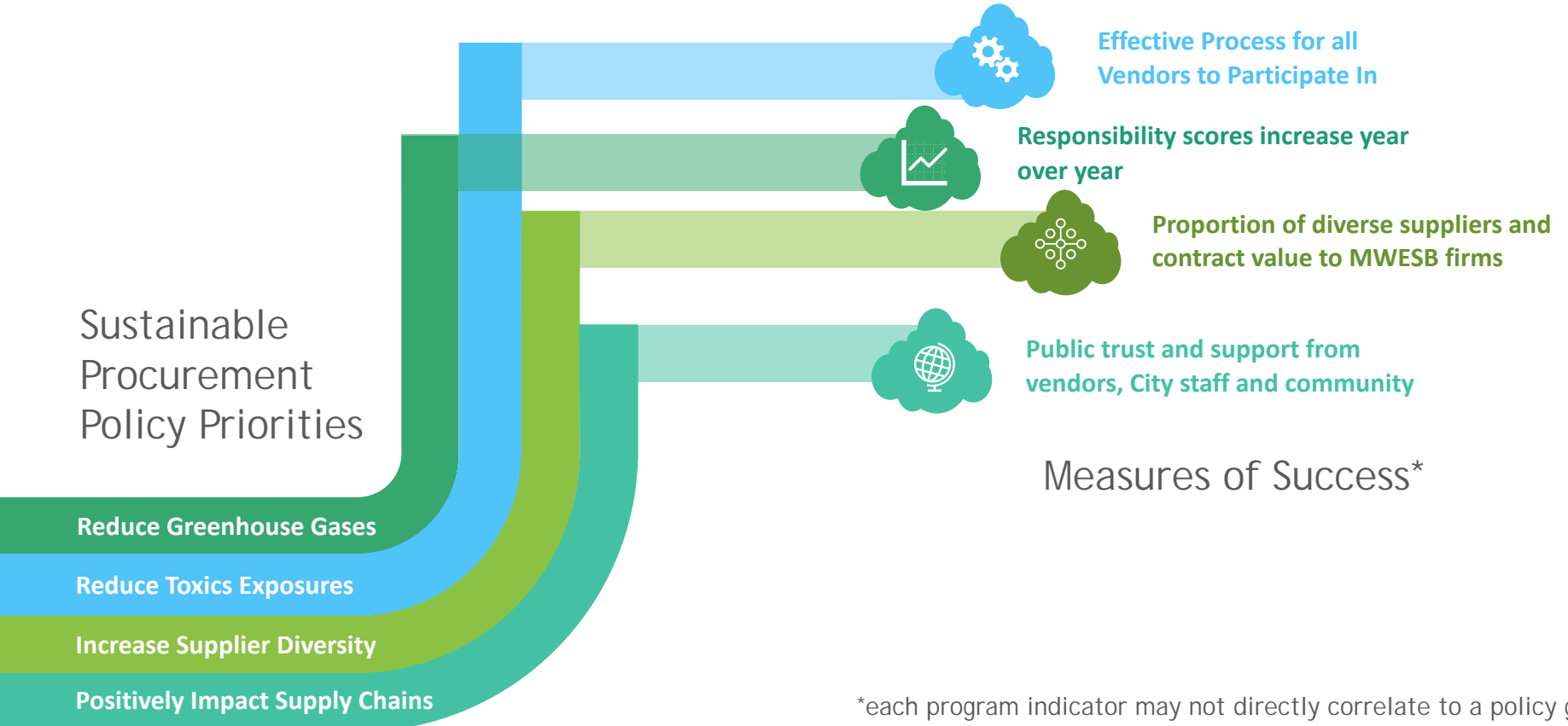
# Staged Implementation

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- Vendors sign the Code of Conduct**
- Pilot VRQ with small & large businesses**
- Develop technical support**
- Onboard vendors based on pilots**
- Track results and impact to continue learning and adapting together**

# Policy Priorities & Program Objectives



\*each program indicator may not directly correlate to a policy goal

# Questions for you

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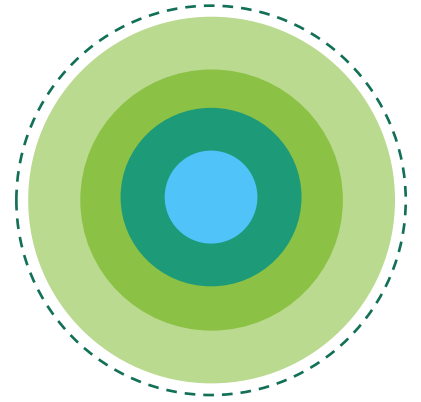
## Polls

1. Understanding of the approach and rationale
2. Participation based on business size
3. Size of a big business
4. Technical assistance needs
5. Funding mechanisms

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The image features a background of a complex network graph with nodes and connecting lines. The nodes are colored in a gradient from reddish-brown on the left to blue and purple on the right. A large, semi-transparent white circle is centered on the page. Inside this circle, there are two dark blue speech bubbles. The larger bubble on the left contains the text "Break out Groups" in white, bold, sans-serif font. A smaller, empty speech bubble is positioned to its right and slightly below.

**Break out  
Groups**

*Thank you for your reflections.*

