Executive Summary
Yale Procurement Sustainability Action Plan
April 2018

In 2016 Yale University announced the launch of the Yale Sustainability Plan 2025, which charts a nine-year course toward Yale’s sustainability vision of “a Yale where sustainability is seamlessly integrated into the scholarship and operations of the university, contributing to its social, environmental, and financial excellence and positioning Yale as a local and global leader.”

While the institutional-scale sustainability plan provides a robust platform for a coordinated and unified approach to enhancing’s Yale’s sustainability leadership, our campus is actually composed of a diverse set of communities and disciplines. This Sustainability Action Plan is one of a larger set of similar plans that create tailored language for Yale’s operational units and professional schools.

Procurement Commitments
The Procurement Department has particular importance to Yale’s sustainability because it mitigates legal and brand risks; reduces costs by selecting products with less energy consumption, waste and product related health risks; and creates social benefits. The practice of sustainable procurement fits well into the functions of the Procurement Department as it supports Yale’s mission to commit to improving the world today and for future generations. As a large institution, the sum of Yale’s purchases constitutes a significant environmental impact. As a large force in the local economy, Yale’s supplier choices can influence companies to be more sustainable. Finally, as a home and center of thought for faculty and students, the university shapes the character and norms of constituents, molding habits and manners in which future generations consider their own procurement practices.

Within the framework of the Yale Sustainability Plan, the Procurement Department can make significant advances for the university towards achieving its goals, particularly in the following areas:

- **Materials**: Defining sustainability criteria for vendor contracts to ensure sustainable consumption.
- **Climate Action**: Developing a system for reporting on Scope 3 emissions from purchased goods and services.
- **Mobility**: Exploring the possibility of a shared shuttle system.

This Executive Summary contains an overview of Procurement’s actionable commitments for the next several years to help achieve the goals of the Yale Sustainability Plan.

Implementation
In the fall of 2017, Procurement announced this plan to the Yale community, highlighting past successes and future goals. Every year the Office of Sustainability will solicit updates from the members of the Procurement Department responsible for the goals below. This should also be considered an opportunity to conceptualize fresh goals and new ideas for operational and academic collaboration.

To learn more about this effort, please contact sustainability@yale.edu.
Goals to Support Yale Sustainability Plan 2025
The Yale Sustainability Plan 2025 is organized into nine Ambitions, which are undergirded by 20 Objectives and 38 Goals. The Ambitions and Objectives are intentionally worded to invite academic inquiry as well as operational commitments. Included here is a summary of key goals and initiatives for the Procurement Department, organized by the Ambitions of the Yale Sustainability Plan.

Leadership: Demonstrate local and global leadership in sustainability teaching, research, service, and operations.
- Collaborate with procurement partners from other university institutional groups and other institutions of higher education to support information-sharing and best practice sharing.
- Collaborate with University centers and programs to ensure that cutting-edge sustainable procurement research is integrated into University decisions.

Empowerment: Foster a diverse and inclusive sustainability movement.
- Develop a strategy for sourcing local goods and services.
- Commit to ongoing sustainable professional development for all Procurement staff.

Health and Well-Being: Enhance health, well-being, and ecosystem vitality.
- Support efforts to establish campus-wide sustainable catering standards.
- Support efforts around healthy cleaning supplies.

Climate Action: Take urgent action to mitigate climate change and proactively adapt to its impacts.
- Develop system for reporting Scope 3 emissions for materials procured.

Stewardship: Plan and preserve resilient and sustainable infrastructure and landscapes.
- Support development of Yale’s design requirements for sustainable building materials.

Mobility: Promote and support human and ecosystem health through sustainable transportation.
- Participate in a program to explore the possibility of establishing a shared shuttle system with other universities and employers in the area.

Materials: Ensure sustainable consumption and disposal patterns.
- Create progressive sustainability language for requests for proposals and vendor contracts.
- Establish and promote sustainable packaging standards.
- Support a Task Force that will research, design, test, and assess the viability of a Pay As You Throw system at Yale.
- Increase departmental use of Eli Surplus Exchange for lab purchases, office furniture, and office supplies.
- Conduct an annual assessment of various purchasing certification and labeling schemes.
- Support efforts to reduce the use of Styrofoam to serve food and beverages on campus and in New Haven.