

**Sustainable Food Procurement Conference, All Nations Centre, Cardiff  
23 March 2007**

**Workshop report**

**Value for Money: costing the benefits of sustainability**

**Chair: Kevin Bishop**, Welsh Local Government Association

**Gwenda Raybould**, Value Wales

“How the benefits of Sustainable Procurement can be justified?”

See [www.organic.aber.ac.uk/schoolsnet/conf07/Raybould.ppt](http://www.organic.aber.ac.uk/schoolsnet/conf07/Raybould.ppt).

**Dr Nic Lampkin**, Organic Centre Wales

“Organic Food and public procurement”

See [www.organic.aber.ac.uk/schoolsnet/conf07/Lampkin.ppt](http://www.organic.aber.ac.uk/schoolsnet/conf07/Lampkin.ppt).

**Comments and actions:**

1. It is a major concern that incorporating the suggestions made concerning public procurement will mean a huge increase in work for those involved.
2. Sustainable development is difficult to quantify and specify, but there are labels (such as ‘organic’) which can help.
3. Caterers are often unaware of the meaning of organic, and therefore do not specifically request it.
4. Key Performance Indicators are needed, with pilots and targets.
5. It would be helpful if suppliers were asked to provide information about sustainability when they go on the suppliers’ database. Even if the information were not used immediately, it would heighten awareness of these issues amongst suppliers and would help increase standards.
6. It would be useful if Value Wales could draw up criteria, rather than the 22 local authorities doing the work individually.
7. Research says this work needs champions and clear political will to succeed.
8. Monitoring and a robust evidence base needs building. We need to know information on
  - school kitchens
  - training requirements
  - supply base.
9. There needs to be a change in perception of procurement officers, and staff need to work with SMEs.
10. It would be good to link the nutrition database with agri-food department priorities.
11. It would be helpful if the Environment Planning and Countryside, and Education departments were in regular communication over these issues.