



# RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING CHARTER



**cve**

Changing visions of energy

# FOR THE GREATER GOOD



At CVE, we believe that a company should aim for different types of wealth that all go hand in hand: environmental, social and human, and economic. Therefore, if we are striving day in day out to ensure our industrial projects are sustainable and deployed successfully, we want to seek meaning and achieve unity over time. We believe renewable energy is a common good, which should be developed collectively to protect the planet and everyone living on it.

In line with this spirit of responsibility, which the group was founded on, in 2009, we have been deploying and structuring an ESG approach around five pillars since 2020: environment, human, societal, innovation and purchasing/governance. In this context, CVE is committed to respecting and promoting, in the course of its activities, principles relating to human rights, employment law, the environment, the prevention of corruption and responsible purchasing.

This civic engagement is a state of mind more than anything, which we share with all CVE stakeholders. Our partners are our most important stakeholders. In partnership with them, we opt for consistency by adopting, in terms of purchasing, a management strategy for commercial relations, on one hand, and a management strategy for goods and services, on the other hand, which are 100% ethical and sustainable.

But in order for this shared responsibility to shine through every part of our organisation, we must take it on together: CVE's collaborators and partners. We would like to reassure our partners that we have full confidence in them. Our confidence comes with high expectations. We expect them to commit themselves willingly, on a daily basis, in compliance with this charter.

With this document, we in turn intend to do what we say and lead by example, in our sector and beyond, in a new approach to purchasing. For the greater good.

# SUMMARY

## WHY HAVE A RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING CHARTER?

To live and share our values	p.5
To have a positive impact	p.6
To bind our partners and their subcontractors	p.6

## OUR COMMITMENTS

#1 Ethics	p.7
#2 Sustainability	p.8
#3 Excellence	p.9
#4 Fairness	p.10
#5 Proximity	p.11

## TOGETHER

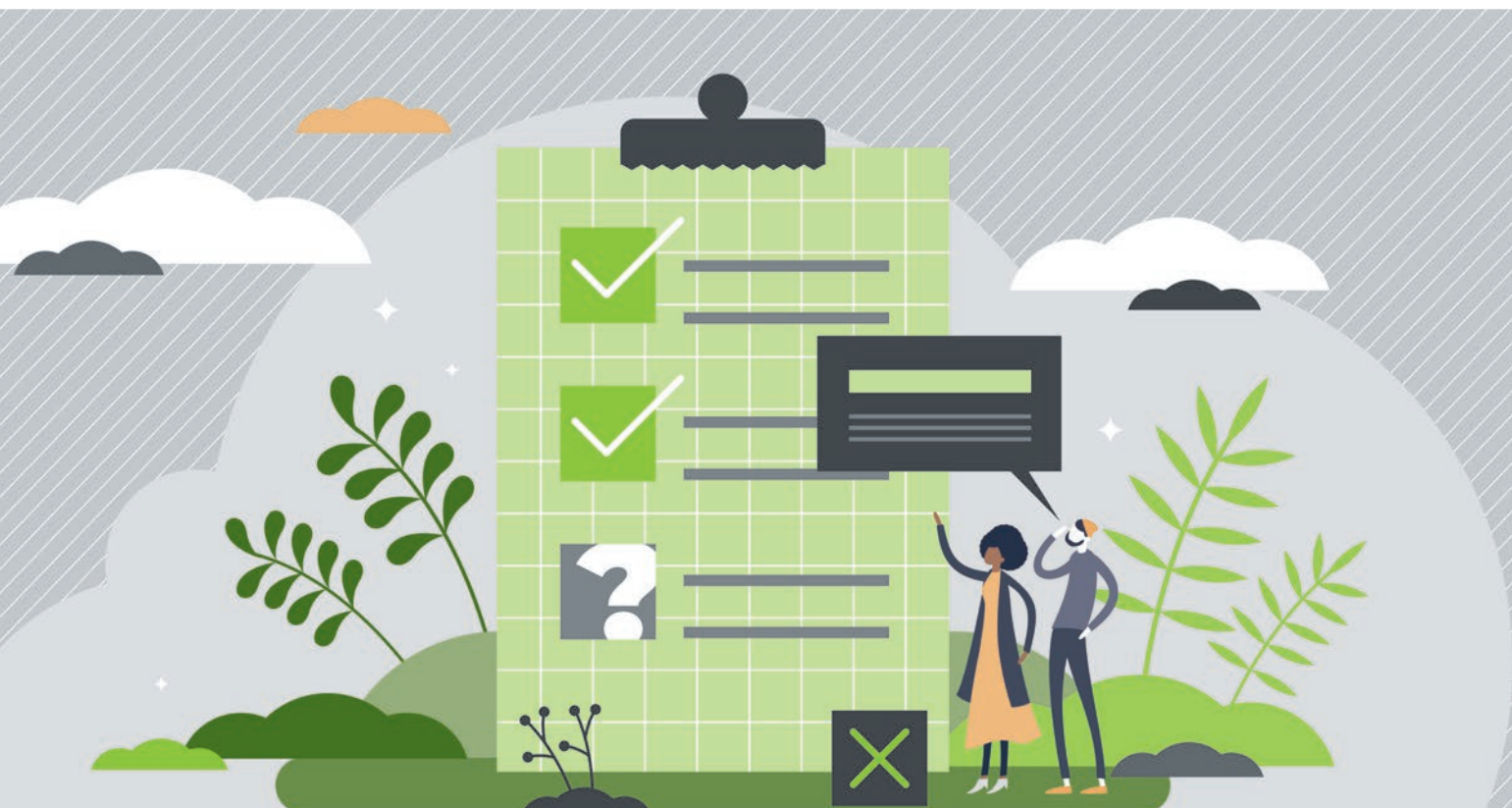
P.12

## READ AND APPROVED

P.13







# WHY HAVE A RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING CHARTER?

Tell me what your purchasing methods are and I will tell you who you are... Purchasing says a lot about a company and the way it relates with the world. Because purchasing opens the door to the outside world and involves many different interactions. Because, regardless of what type of purchasing is involved, it has an impact. To make this impact as positive as possible, CVE wanted to adopt a "Responsible Purchasing Charter" as a shared frame of reference, to bind our group and all its partners.

## TO LIVE AND SHARE OUR VALUES

Since the Charter contributes to the quality of the projects carried out by CVE, and therefore to the development of renewable energy production models for tomorrow, the Purchasing function is essential to the competitiveness of our group. But looking beyond strictly economic considerations, our company has always wanted to live a human adventure based on

responsibility and commitment. These values must drive all areas of our organisation, including the way we buy and use resources. We therefore feel it is essential to share this DNA with our partners, within the framework of unified commercial relations based on mutual trust, where the interest of each party must always strive to serve the common good. The quality of these relationships determines the strength of CVE and its ability to have a positive impact on the world around it.

## TO HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT

Some companies only aim to create wealth, but at CVE, economic wealth is simply a smaller part of a greater purpose, where the social and environmental impact of our group takes precedence over everything else. Putting people at the heart of tomorrow's energy strategy is our *raison d'être*. This is why, through a responsible purchasing policy, we intend to commit to the optimisation of the resources that our organisation needs to develop its projects, by practising moderation at each stage of the value chain of a product or service. Compliance with laws and regulations, quality of goods and services, self-development of people or budgetary efficiency: we will judge the action of CVE employees and stakeholders in terms of purchasing, in terms of our positive impact in terms of social and environmental justice, applied to the energy sector.

## TO BIND OUR PARTNERS AND THEIR SUBCONTRACTORS

In compliance with the guidelines defined by CVE in terms of CSR and ethics as part of its ESG approach, the group's employees undertake to expressly follow the principles of fair treatment, transparency and independence vis-à-vis the partners of the company. In this vein, we intend to make purchases a powerful lever for the sustainable transformation of our sector, and we hope to involve all of our trusted partners in this adventure. For this, we rely on mutuality. By respecting the commitments formalised in this charter, we encourage our partners to do the same and to ensure that they are respected by their own subcontractors by communicating about best practices. It is all together, by respecting everyone's rights and duties, that we will succeed in initiating and maintaining a dynamic of progress towards what CVE considers to be the pillars of a responsible purchasing policy: ethics, sustainability, excellence, fairness, proximity.

# OUR 5 COMMITMENTS

#1 ETHICS

#2 SUSTAINABILITY

#3 EXCELLENCE

#4 FAIRNESS

#5 PROXIMITY



### Did you say «partner»?

Stakeholders who allow the company to acquire equipment or buildings, to benefit from services or research are generally grouped under the generic term of "suppliers" or "subcontractors". For CVE, they are much more than that: true partners, who our group has built a relationship of trust with and who we rely on every day to move forward. In this charter, the term "partner" is therefore used instead of "supplier" or "subcontractors".

# OUR COMMITMENTS



## #1 ETHICS

In line with the principles of the group's "Ethical Charter", CVE appeals to the moral conscience of all players in the business world and campaigns for honest and transparent purchasing practices, which is the true guarantee of confidence and security in commercial matters. We want to buy goods and services that respect both people and the planet at the right price, at all stages of production. To do this, we are determined to fight all forms of human exploitation, to fight against corruption and to reject any culture of arrangement.

### For example

In order to be able to measure the efforts of our regular partners on the CSR aspect in a tangible way, we undertake to have them audited by an independent organisation and to monitor the evolution of their CSR policy in the future.

## CVE UNDERTAKES TO...

- # **Prevent** any illegal or unfair commercial practice.
- # **Fight against** all forms of corruption, whether passive or active, and influence peddling in our relations with our partners.
- # **Prevent** any conflict of interest, whether direct or indirect, likely to lead to any personal gain from a transaction.
- # **Fight against** all forms of human exploitation, by setting up rigorous processes for selecting partners.
- # **Guarantee** the confidentiality of non-public information and data collected in relation to purchases.



# #2 SUSTAINABILITY

As a player in the energy transition, CVE is part of a long-term vision. For us, the long term is synonymous with loyalty in the relationship we forge with our partners, but also with sustainability as a criterion of choice applied to our purchases to preserve our social and environmental environment.

### For example

When we choose our partners or select a bid within the framework of a project, we inform the companies that are not selected of the reasons for our choice. In addition, we never consult a company if we know their bid could never be accepted.

## CVE UNDERTAKES TO...

- # **Maintain** a loyal and constructive relationship with all partners, based on ongoing dialogue and transparency, and conducive to long-term cooperation around shared issues.
- # **Promote**, whenever possible, the amicable resolution of disputes with the aim of preserving the value of the relationship built with each partner.
- # **Adopt** a selection process that values the social and environmental commitment of candidate partners and service providers, in particular for the benefit of short distribution channels and the circular economy.
- # Whenever possible, **choose** eco-designed products, with long lifespans, which are easy to repair, reuse and which can be recycled.
- # **Assessing** all the costs and impacts over the entire life cycle of a product or service when awarding a contract.





## #3 EXCELLENCE

Excellence is not an end in itself, but a way to achieve an aim that goes beyond the simple quest for technical or financial performance. In the context of purchasing and elsewhere, CVE tends towards social and environmental excellence, in order to give its action a meaning and a usefulness capable of influencing society's future in terms of energy, while responding as best as we can to the expectations of customers and the market. On this challenging path, we strive day in day out to offer a high level of service and to develop increasingly innovative solutions, while expecting our partners to help us live up to this requirement.

### For example

At the end of each project, we organise a feedback meeting with our major partners, the purpose of which is to take a shared look at the difficulties encountered and share areas for improvement.

### CVE UNDERTAKES TO...

- # **Ensure** our partners are real allies, who help us grow and improve, in order to always strive for excellence in our company's competitiveness.
- # **Set up** partner selection tools integrating quality criteria and favouring the most competitively priced offers.
- # **Assess** the risks and opportunities in terms of purchases to set priorities for action with a view to the company assuming an increasing level of responsibility.
- # **Ensure** partners receive positive support and monitoring by setting up relevant tools and procedures.



## #4 FAIRNESS

Internally and externally, CVE strives to consider each situation from the particular angle of fairness, through a response adapted to the issues involved, which takes into account both the specific circumstances of the case and the individuality of the stakeholders involved. Driven by this desire for fairness, we strive to build, with our partners, a balanced and reciprocal relationship, by placing equal opportunities and transparency at the heart of the Purchasing process. Because we should all be winners.

### For example

During the health crisis, some of our partners experienced delays due to supply difficulties with their own subcontractors. Given the difficult global context, we decided that since we could not see that they were at fault, there was no need to apply the penalties that we would contractually have been able to apply to them. This helped to consolidate our mutual relationship. Subsequently, they also accepted our own limitations (deviations from certain sites) without claiming any compensation from us either.

## CVE UNDERTAKES TO...

- # **Establish** an open and fair methodological framework, which stimulates healthy competition.
- # **Select** our partners objectively and impartially, according to predefined criteria known to all.
- # **Diversify** the panel of our partners so as to minimise any economic dependence or technical monopoly on the part of a service provider.
- # **Train** buyers and ensure all employees are skilled, in order to optimise internal purchasing processes and contribute to the performance of relations with our partners.
- # **Communicate** about the purchasing policy and make partners aware of the ethical principles promoted by CVE, as well as the commitments of each party.



# #5 PROXIMITY

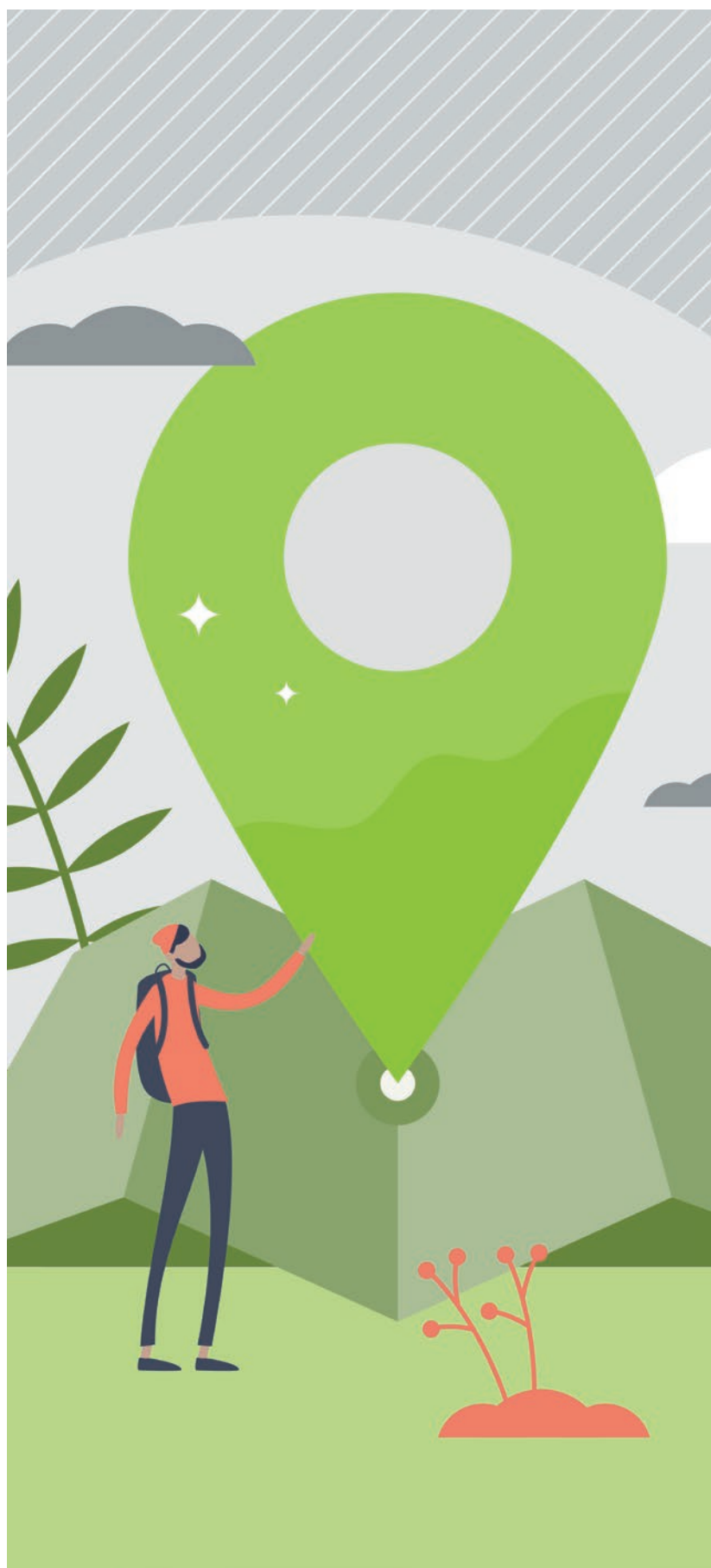
We are confident that the development of short distribution channels is one of the keys in starting the ecological transition. On the whole, CVE favours proximity whenever possible. Human proximity, towards its teams as well as its customers and partners. Local proximity, based on a decentralised production model, but also a purchasing policy that primarily supports the development and economy of local areas. In other words, a Purchasing process focused on the creation of value closest to our production facilities.

## CVE UNDERTAKES TO...

- # **Encourage** local emulation by developing a network of partners as close as possible to projects.
- # **Favour** local partners and short distribution channels as much as possible.
- # **Look for** local solutions for the collection of waste resulting from purchases.
- # **Reserve** part of the purchasing budget for disability-friendly companies or eSATs (assistance and service centres helping disabled people into work).
- # **Encourage** French innovation in the field of renewable energies by supporting the national sector.

### For example

We frequently respond to calls for expressions of interest from local authorities. In response to the challenge of social division, we are systematically committed to working with local structures and to promoting professional integration as well as training on our work sites.





Let's get it right! CVE's **"Responsible Purchasing Charter"** is much more than just a code of conduct, it's an agreement. An agreement between our group, all of its employees and all of the company's partners. An agreement that requires conviction and commitment from everyone.

We know that without mutual trust and solidarity, we would inevitably overlook our goal: to take part in building a fairer society by responding, right now, to the social and environmental emergency.

It is therefore together, and together only, that our company will achieve non-economic growth. We must start with our purchases, to ensure they specifically contribute to truly sustainable regional development through renewable energies.

It is up to us to move forward collectively in this direction by adopting this charter. We hope that this will serve as a guide to everyone and that it will encourage responsibility for all, **so we can start translating our words into deeds. A greater impact.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION...

This document refers to CVE's "Code of Ethics". To view this Code, go to the CVE website or ask your usual contact for a copy or send an email to:  
[contact@cvegroup.com](mailto:contact@cvegroup.com)

For any question relating to CVE's "Responsible Purchasing Charter" or any additional information, we invite you to contact your usual contact directly or send an email to:  
[contact@cvegroup.com](mailto:contact@cvegroup.com)



## # READ AND APPROVED

We, the undersigned: \_\_\_\_\_

We hereby confirm that we have fully understood the CVE Group's "Responsible Purchasing Charter" and that we comply with its terms.

We confirm, in particular, that we respect the same ethical commitments as those set out by CVE in this document and will ensure sustainability in our relations with the group, within the framework of a loyal and constructive relationship, based on dialogue and conducive to the amicable resolution of disputes, whenever possible.

This alliance, based on mutual responsibility, implies that my company and I endorse the ethos and the content of the CVE Group's "Responsible Purchasing Charter" and work actively to respect the commitments covered by our own sub-contractors.

Company name: \_\_\_\_\_

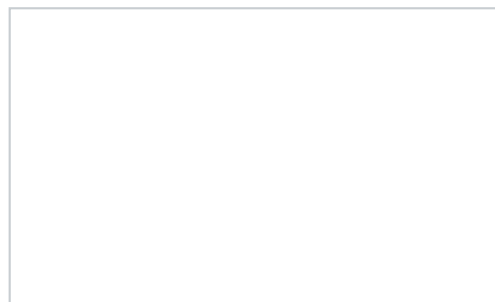
Name and position of representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Done in: \_\_\_\_\_

On: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature:

Company  
stamp:





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