

Procurement Policy for the UUCE
Approved by the Board of Trustees April 16, 2003

As a Green Sanctuary congregation, we will strive to increase our awareness of the "cradle to grave" impact of the goods and services we purchase, considering these aspects: the raw materials, manufacturing, pollution, transportation, packaging, recycling, reuse and/or repair-ability of product, ultimate disposability, labor, and political economy. We will strive to keep in mind that the dollars we spend are our votes for the goods and services we buy. We will try to vote thoughtfully and effectively by buying environmentally sound goods and services, and not buying, i.e., boycotting, less sound ones. We will consciously model sustainable living as we practice our UU principles.

Therefore, when procuring goods and services for church use, these guidelines will be considered:

- Before buying any good or service, consider whether the purchase is indeed necessary (the greenest buying is not buying at all). Consider repairing an existing item before replacing it with a new one.
- If it is determined that a purchase must be made, then consider procuring a used item.
- If a needed item cannot be found used, then the greenest version that works satisfactorily will be purchased. (The Green Seal organization is a resource for purchasing - www.greenseal.org)
- If recycled alternatives are available, judged to be satisfactory and cost within ten percent of equivalent non-recycled product, they will be preferred for purchase over products made from virgin materials.
- If locally produced food products are available, judged to be satisfactory and cost within 10% of nonsocial products, the former will be preferred for purchase.
- A list of suggested resources for routinely purchased items is available.

Reusables Policy for the UUCE
Approved by the Board of Trustees April 16, 2003

We, as a church community, strive to follow our UU principles and live in a more sustainable manner, consciously lightening our footprint on the Earth and setting an example for others to follow. We believe that single use items, the so-called 'disposables', buy a small measure of short term convenience at the cost of tremendously increased use of raw materials, energy, increased pollution and toxics, and vastly increased waste disposal. Unlike many environmental problems, the solution here is simple.

We will strive to use the following reusable items rather than single use/disposable items at church activities:

dishes	bowls
mugs	drinkware
silverware	pitchers
serving bowls	storage containers
ovenware	baking pans
casserole dishes	cloth tablecloths
sponges	cloth dishtowels
cloth rags	

We will strive to avoid using the following items: disposable cups, plates, bowls, forks, knives, and spoons made of plastic, polystyrene, and paper; plastic wrap and bags, non-recycled paper napkins and paper towels (produced from live trees), aluminum foil, and foil pans.

Routinely Purchased Goods/Services	Suggested Alternatives
copy paper	recycled paper *
envelopes	recycled paper envelopes *
stamps	
printer cartridges	
mailing labels	
mailing seals	
tape	
staples	
construction paper	
flowers	
live plants or flowers grown locally	
paper towels	recycled paper paper towels *
paper napkins	recycled paper paper napkins *
coffee	fair trade, shade-grown, organic coffee
creamer	
sugar	
tea	
snacks	
toilet tissue	recycled paper toilet tissue *
facial tissue	recycled paper facial tissues *
cleaning products	nontoxic cleaning products
dish washing and dishwasher soap	nontoxic dish washing and dishwasher soap
garbage bags	recycled plastic garbage bags
vacuum cleaner bags	
incandescent lightbulbs	compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs)
gasoline	
electrical energy	
natural gas	

* Select recycled paper products which are identified as having a high percentage of post consumer waste content, as this provides a market for paper recycling programs.

Some Resources For Green Purchasing

Harmony/Gaiam, Inc. (www.gaiam.com, 800-869-3446):

Nontoxic cleaning products for dishes, floors, carpets, sinks, glass and toilets
Household recycled paper products: napkins, towels, toilet tissue, facial tissue
Recycled plastic garbage bags
compact fluorescent light bulbs
many other products made of recycled materials

Earth Friendly Products (available at local retailers):

Nontoxic cleaning products, including dish liquid

Local retailers (e.g., Jewel and Eagle) sell store brand 100% recycled paper products:

Paper towels, napkins, facial and toilet tissue

High post-consumer content recycled office paper products can be obtained from:

- Staples (www.staples.com, 800-3STAPLE)
- Vanguard Tree Free Recycled Paper (90% post-consumer/10% hemp) \$7.69/500
- Eureka Recycled Paper (50% post-consumer waste) \$5.49/500 Dolphin Blue (www.dolphinblue.com)
- -New Life Recycled Paper (80% post-consumer waste) \$12.74/500 w/shipping Green Line Paper Co. (www.greenlinepaper.com)
- New Life Recycled Paper (60% post-consumer waste) \$39.95/5,000 sheets