

# Sustainability Purchasing Network

A program of the



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## Purpose & Learning Objectives

1. Understanding sustainability purchasing
2. Exploring the business case
3. Learning how to minimize costs
4. Using tools to start or enhance your program

## About the FBC and SPN

- *Fraser Basin Council*: A NGO that tackles a wide range of sustainability issues throughout BC
  - Green Fleets BC; E3 Fleet; Idle Free BC
  - Smart Planning for Communities
  - BC Climate Exchange
- SPN: Program launched in 2005
  - Mandate: Support organizations to develop or improve their sustainability purchasing



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**FACT:**  
**Sustainability purchasing is a key driver  
of a “sustainability-driven” economy.**



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# Organizations are a leverage point

- Demand will generate supply
- Ripple effect—think Wal-Mart
- Collaboration = change
- Organizational alignment



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# Business case for sustainability purchasing

- **Financial benefits**
  - Reduce costs, enhance image and brand
- **Management benefits**
  - Align with goals/values, help attract and retain talent, reduce risk, improve supply chain management
- **Environmental benefits**
  - Reduce waste, resource use, pollutions, toxins, GHG emissions
- **Socio-economic benefits**
  - Develop markets, improve wage levels/working conditions, advance human rights



## What is sustainability purchasing?

A systematic way in which organizations buy supplies or services by taking into account:

- The best value for money (price, quality, availability, functionality)

**and adding in**

- Environmental aspects over the life cycle of the product
- Social and ethical aspects (local jobs, working conditions, fair trade)



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## A total cost approach

Sustainability purchasing looks at:

- What products are made of (and how services are delivered)
- Where they have come from
- Who has made them
- How they will be ultimately disposed of
- Whether the purchase needs to be made at all



## Ramp up...

If you're just beginning:

- **Start simple:** Make a “Top 10” sustainability shopping list. Tackle low hanging fruit first. (An example to follow)
- **Find allies:** This usually starts as a project of a few sustainability champions in your organization.
- **Get buy in:** Support from the top is critical. So is employee engagement.
- **Learn more:** Enroll in a workshop. Find out what others are doing. Don't recreate the wheel.



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## Tools and Resources

### Top 10 Shopping List

1. Electronic Equipment
2. Office Supplies
3. Office Furniture
4. Paper
5. Lighting
6. Cleaning Supplies and Custodial Services
7. Meetings/Conferences/Events
8. Business Travel
9. Gifts and Apparel
10. Coffee, Tea and Other Commodities

# Tools: Top 10 Shopping List

## 1. Electronic Equipment

- Consider energy operating costs, and hazardous chemicals.



**Tools for energy efficiency:** EnergyStar or EnerGuide labels

**Tool for wide-ranging environmental criteria** (including hazardous materials, disposal, energy conservation, corporate performance and packaging): Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Find EPEAT rated products at [www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net).

## Tools: Top 10 Shopping List

### 2. Office Supplies

- Recycled paper clips, biodegradable pens, recycled content binders, desk organizers, etc.

### 3. Office Furniture

- Many selections now available from recyclable/renewable fibres, and non-toxic resins.
- Look for wood products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

For more information, visit

[www.fscCanada.org](http://www.fscCanada.org).



## Tools: Top 10 Shopping List (cont'd)

### 4. Paper

- Important purchase due to volume of use and environmental issues (recycled content, bleaching, carbon footprint, sustainable forest management)

Prioritize impacts that are most important to your organization.



See [www.buysmartbc.com/resources](http://www.buysmartbc.com/resources) for paper buying advice, including FSC guide to paper procurement, WWF guide to buying paper, and a paper calculator from Environmental Defense

## Tools: Top 10 Shopping List (cont'd)

### 5. Lighting

Reduce energy & maintenance costs, greenhouse gases by improving efficiency (Compact fluorescent, High Intensity Discharge (HID) and Light Emitting Diode (LED))

BC Hydro's e-catalogue offers a list of approved lighting choices in BC at

[www.bchydro.com/ecatalog](http://www.bchydro.com/ecatalog); check with commercial in other areas of the country.



### 6. Cleaning Supplies and Custodial Services

Greener cleaners avoid health and environmental impacts of harsh chemicals. Information on green cleaners that satisfy strict environmental criteria available from: EcoLogo in Canada ([www.environmentalchoice.com](http://www.environmentalchoice.com)) and Green Seal in the US ([www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org))

## Tools: Top 10 Shopping List (cont'd)

### 8. Business Travel

Reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with corporate travel.

- Consider fuel efficient, alternatively fueled and electric

**fleet vehicles** -

([www.greenfleets.org](http://www.greenfleets.org)) and  
([www.e3fleet.com](http://www.e3fleet.com)).

- Best practice is to minimize **air travel** - consider video conferencing, or bus and rail travel. Organize rideshares and carpools to reduce impacts.

For necessary air travel, many travel agencies and airlines offset the carbon impacts of air travel. Air Canada, offers a carbon offset program at:

[www.aircanada.com/en/travelinfo/traveller/zfp.html](http://www.aircanada.com/en/travelinfo/traveller/zfp.html).

UNIGLOBE Travel has a Green Flight Program which is certified by Ecologo (visit

[www.uniglobeadvancetravel.com](http://www.uniglobeadvancetravel.com),

click "offset your flight's carbon emissions")

# Tools: Top 10 Shopping List (cont'd)

## 7. Meetings/Conferences/Events

### Impacts:

- Transportation
- Accommodation
- Event Execution



## Tools: Top 10 Shopping List (cont'd)

### 7. Meetings/Conferences/Events (Cont'd)

• **Transportation:** SpaceShare helps organizations find connections between event attendees to share flights, rooms and rides: [www.spaceshare.com](http://www.spaceshare.com). You can offset the carbon footprint of your meeting, at [www.offsetters.ca](http://www.offsetters.ca) or [www.zerofootprint.net](http://www.zerofootprint.net).

• **Accommodation:** Certification can help purchasers choose a greener meeting facility. Find the Green Leaf Eco-Rating Program for hotels at: [www.terrachoice.com/Home/Certification/Hotel%20Eco-Rating](http://www.terrachoice.com/Home/Certification/Hotel%20Eco-Rating).

• **Events:** BlueGreen Meetings provides tools and resources to green meetings at [www.epa.gov/oppt/greenmeetings](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/greenmeetings). Ten steps to greener meetings include:

1. Establish an environmental policy,
2. Use paperless technology,
3. Meet close,
4. Practice the 3Rs,
5. Provide bulk condiments,
6. Use green hotels,
7. Eat green,
8. Buy recycled,
9. Save energy, and
10. Spread the word.

## Tools: Top 10 Shopping List (cont'd)

### 9. Gifts and Apparel

Ensure your branded shirts, ball caps and other corporate gifts are manufactured in factories with fair and safe workplace practices:

[www.fairlabor.org/participants/companies](http://www.fairlabor.org/participants/companies)



### 10. Coffee, Tea and Other Commodities

Fair trade labels provides assurance that farmers and workers in emerging economies receive fair compensation for their products and labour; support sustainable environmental practices; improved social services; and promote investment in local economic infrastructure.

Consult TransFair Canada at [www.transfair.ca](http://www.transfair.ca).

## Ramp up...

If you're well on the way:

- **Draft a policy:** Provide tangible guidelines. Then make a plan.
- **Know your suppliers:** Survey key suppliers. Communicate your goals and standards. Work together.
- **Formalize your “asks”:** Create tools to refine your tendering process.
- **Track your activities:** Set targets. Map your progress. And communicate this internally and externally.
- **Dig deeper:** Enroll in a workshop. Find out what others are doing. Don't recreate the wheel.



## We can help!

- Check out our Resources and Events Calendar online at [www.buysmartbc.com](http://www.buysmartbc.com)
- Attend a SPN workshop or learning circle
  - Next workshop: Sept 25, “Integrating Sustainability into Purchasing”
- Join our Distribution List to keep up to date with SPN resources and news
- Increase energy efficiency and emissions reductions of your onroad fleet with [www.greenfleetsbc.com](http://www.greenfleetsbc.com)
- Utilize SPN’s Advisory Services to help you establish or step up your sustainability purchasing programs



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