A Quick Guide to Sustainable Purchasing

What is it?

* “Sustainable purchasing is purchasing that builds healthy communities, economies, and environments all along local and global supply chains” (Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council).

What should you look for when purchasing products?

* General
	+ Check with the Office of Sustainability Free Shop to see if they have the product you need
	+ Buy it used
	+ Buy durable and high quality products
	+ Find products with reduced amounts of environmentally sensitive materials
	+ Think about where the product will go at the end of its life and how to properly dispose of it
	+ Buy in bulk to reduce packaging waste
	+ Use standard shipping
	+ **Look at this site from the EPA that covers even more products:** <https://www.epa.gov/greenerproducts/identify-greener-products-and-services>
* Paper
	+ Remember to try to use non-paper items first (take notes on computer etc.)
	+ Forest Stewardship Council Certified
	+ Recycled content
* Appliances
* Look for Energy Star Rated Appliances
	+ a rating approved by the EPA, “since 1992, Energy Star and its partners have helped save American families and businesses more than $450 billion and over 3.5 trillion kilowatt-hours of electricity while also achieving broad emissions reductions”
* Computers
	+ Have EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool) rating
		- Organization evaluates a technology’s sustainability regarding its whole lifecycle- design to recycling)
* Food
	+ Buy local and organic when possible
	+ Eat more raw fruits and vegetables and stay low on the food chain (eliminating meat and other animal products)
	+ Purchase Fairtrade, organic, or shade grown coffee or tea
	+ Purchase materials to serve and prepare food that can be used again, composted, or recycled
* Furniture
	+ GREENGAURD and Cradle-to-Cradle certify furniture with low volatile organic content (VOC)