

City Life Church Ethical Purchasing Policy

1. Introduction and Context

- a. The Leadership Team of City Life Church are stewards of the money given to us by our church family and we are accountable to God for the way we use it. The purpose of this policy is to outline the church's approach to purchasing ethically produced goods and services. Our financial decisions are part of how we participate in God's mission.
- b. This policy relates to all activities done in the name of the church and for which the church is responsible. For external users of the church building, we seek to encourage ethical practice through our lettings agreement and wider publicity.
- c. We recognise that we live in a world where injustice is prevalent. This policy seeks to encourage the church to consider wider societal and justice factors in its purchasing as a response to Scripture and the outworking of our Christian faith. The church seeks to encourage our church family and the wider community to adopt similar principles.
- d. We recognise that changes to our purchasing may lead to increased costs in some areas. This may mean we need to reduce expenditure elsewhere. Ethical purchasing is part of the responsible stewardship of our resources and how we work for a fairer, more sustainable world.

2. General principles

- a. Through our purchasing decisions we strive to:
 - i. purchase fairly traded products (such as those with a Fairtrade, UTZ, Rainforest Alliance label) where available, including tea, coffee, sugar and cocoa products
 - ii. follow the 'LOAF' principles (Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly, Fairly traded)
 - iii. support local businesses
 - iv. avoid purchasing products derived from intensively farmed animals and products tested on animals. We look for logos/schemes that demonstrate better or best available standards in animal welfare, including RSPCA Assured, Organic, Pasture for Life and free-range certifications
 - v. ensure that the purchasing of our utilities is obtained through companies that prioritise green energy and sustainability
 - vi. obtain environmentally friendly cleaning and sanitary products
 - vii. continually reduce our reliance on single-use plastic
 - viii. purchase products and services which demonstrate the best ethical credentials e.g. anti-slavery policy, green policy, recycled packaging, recycled paper, local producer

3. Fairtrade commitment

- a. We use Fairtrade (or other fairly traded labelled) products wherever possible (at least tea, coffee, cocoa products and sugar) and share this information with our church family.
- b. We promote Fairtrade Fortnight

4. Caring for the earth / Responding to the climate crisis

- We seek to buy electricity from renewable sources.
- We buy low energy bulbs wherever possible.
- We use environmentally friendly cleaning products whenever possible. We buy products in large and/or refillable containers to reduce our plastic use.
- We take steps to reduce our use of single-use plastic.
- We use 100% recycled paper (or FSC certified if not available) in our church office and endeavour to reduce paper usage.
- We only use peat-free compost in our church garden.
- We aim to source locally grown, seasonal flowers and avoid buying floral foam ('oasis') for flower arranging.
- We choose 100% FSC certified wood products.
- prefer usage of recycled products and will encourage recycling as widely as possible to those in the church and the community

5. Other issues

- When buying IT equipment (laptops, desktop computers, projectors etc) or phones we look for refurbished, second-hand items. If buying new, we look for TCO certified products.
- We keep products and appliances in use for as long as possible, seeking to repair rather than replace.
- We provide facilities for recycling and think carefully about how we dispose of anything that we no longer need.
- We encourage the re-use and re-distribution of unwanted electrical goods and household furniture through the ReStore project.
- We encourage the re-use and re-distribution of unwanted toys and children's and other clothing through our Lanterns and Toddlers 'Help yourself' tables.

6. Financing In our wider financing, we will:

- seek to tithe at least 10% of our annual income
- consider an ethical approach to any church investments