

Saint Hilda's Anglican Church

5838 Barnacle Street
Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0

Phone: (604) 885-5019

Fax: (604) 885-0759

admin@sthilda.ca

Green Procurement Policy

Preamble: One of the roots of our present ecological distress is our way of being in the world that has put great pressures on our common planetary home. We must see that all of our actions have consequences, (especially on the most vulnerable) and we should therefore strive to ensure that we practice true justice and responsible living in all of God's creation.

Intent: The intent of this procurement policy is to guide parishioners and staff of St. Hilda's by the Sea Church who are purchasing items on behalf of the church. Individuals are also encouraged to consider these guidelines when purchasing items for themselves.

- 1) The three R's:** Before anything is purchased the three R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) should be considered. i.e. Can the quantity being purchased be reduced (preferably to zero)? Can we reuse something instead of buying new? If we can't reduce or reuse, is it possible to purchase a recycled product instead of something made from new material?
- 2) Life Cycle:** When considering different options it is important to consider the full life cycle of the item. For example, it is preferable to purchase something which can be used multiple times vs. a single use item. Similarly, it is preferable to select something which can be recycled at the end of its useful life instead of being disposed of in the garbage. Easily recyclable materials include glass, metal, and clean paper. Some plastics

can also be recycled. Sunshine Coast recycling depots currently accept items with the numbers 1,2,4,& 5 in the triangular recycle logo. Styrofoam can only be recycled at selected facilities and there may be a cost associated with its disposal. See <http://www.gibsonsrecycling.ca/>. for information concerning which items are currently being recycled.

- 3) Environmental Impact of Chemicals:** It is also important to consider the impact of household chemicals, e.g. cleaning products. Items containing bleach or advertising "anti-bacterial" properties should generally be avoided. It is frequently possible to use products such as vinegar or baking soda instead of harsh chemicals to obtain the same result.
- 4) Energy Use:** If the item being purchased will use energy (either electricity, gas, or oil) the model which uses the lowest and cleanest amount of energy while still achieving the desired result should be selected.
- 5) Distance Travelled:** It is also important to consider the energy required to get the item to the church. Items which have travelled less distance contain less embodied energy and are therefore less wasteful. Support the use of produce grown locally and items manufactured locally.
- 6) Packaging:** When comparing two otherwise equal items, the one with recyclable packaging or less packaging is preferable.
- 7) Cost:** At times, items which are environmentally preferable but more costly than to those they are being compared to the judgement of the person making the purchase must be used, but if the cost of the environmentally preferable item is only 5% greater then it should be chosen.
- 8) Ethical alternatives:** Where possible buy fair trade products.
- 9) Eco Logo:** The <http://industries.ul.com/> environment website should be referred to for information pertaining to approved ecologically friendly products.