

National Education for Sustainable Development Expert Council – Sustainability Policies

Our sustainability practices encompass a broad application of actions that encourage environmental awareness to our impacts on living and non-living natural systems, including ecosystems, land, air and water.

The key areas involve foods, goods and services, energy consumption and air emissions, and fair trade.

(A) To use Fair Trade principles - address the purchase of agricultural products, such as coffee, tea, cocoa and sugar grown in Latin America, Africa and Asia. We choose to have fair trade products, and support the local fair trade markets.

(B) To follow Environmental/Green Procurement - means goods and services purchased must be evaluated by environmental criteria that address recycled content, efficient use of resources, use of renewable rather than non-renewable resources, energy efficiency and waste and emissions in their manufacture. Food products purchased must be healthy - without biological or chemical contaminants, environmentally beneficial or benign in their production, and compliant with animal welfare standards. To this end, we choose food suppliers and catering organizations which also support this, as well as eating local and/or organic foods.

(C) To choose Social and Local procurement - considerations state that ethical, fair trade and environmental principles apply most directly at home - by integrating supply chain economics with corporate social responsibility to achieve community benefits. This could involve our choices in transportation and lodgings – such as staying at “green” Hotels and conference venues, and carpooling.

(D) To practice Actions, such as –

- ❖ Use recycled paper products (with high post-consumer recycled content) that are either unbleached or bleached using a chlorine-free process. Minimize the amount of paper used.
- ❖ Consume wisely - for example, by not pre-filling water glasses at banquet tables during 3 days of served lunches for 2 200 people; 2 080 L of water can be saved.
- ❖ Don't buy bottled water.
- ❖ Shut off office equipment when not needed, such as at nights and on weekends
- ❖ Reduce use of attachments and other documents as feasible
- ❖ Provide reusable food & beverage supplies such as stir sticks and mugs
- ❖ Institute a "green" purchasing policy that incorporates waste reduction into purchasing decisions
- ❖ Reduce carbon emissions and support programs to calculate and offset emissions, such as <http://carbonzero.ca/> in Canada. Another great site is Atmosfair in Germany (<http://www.atmosfair.de/index.php?id=9&L=3>) You enter your flight info, arrival and departure times and they will calculate your carbon emissions for your trip. Click on the English flag to get the info in English. (other notable sites - climatecare.org – England; climatetrust.org – US)