

# Sustainable purchasing

## Promotional materials 2024

### 1. Reduce, reuse and recycle

The most sustainable option is to not provide material gifts at all but instead provide virtual or experiential gifts. Examples include tree planting, sponsor a charity on behalf of delegates, or gifting an experience such as tickets to a class, course, workshop or event. Digital rewards such as eBooks, music downloads or eGift cards are other waste free options.



### 2. Buy Sustainable

Wherever possible CHOOSE products that employ a combination of characteristics listed below.

#### ✓ Choose reusable items that support sustainable behaviour

Giving away reusable items will encourage the recipient to ditch disposables. Single-use items are thrown out after only one use, however, their impact on our environment can last thousands of years. Examples of reusable items include shopping tote bags, reusable coffee cups, drink bottles, reusable straws etc.



#### ✓ Choose items made with reused or recycled content

By purchasing a recycled product, you are keeping the product or its components in the loop and out of landfill. You are also supporting the recycling industry by creating demand for the materials placed in the recycling bins.

The best options are products made with re-used components or post-consumer recycled materials.



#### ✓ Choose products that are recyclable or compostable

When waste cannot be prevented, recycling and composting is the next best option. Recycling keeps materials out of landfills, saves energy, and provides raw materials for the production of new products. Composting is recycling for organics, it also keeps organic waste out of landfills by converting it into a valuable soil amendment instead.



#### ✓ Choose 3rd Party certified ethical worker conditions

Organisations such as **Fair Labour Association (FLA)**, and **Fair Trade** to certify that proper labour standards are being applied.



## ✓ Choose Natural fibres made from sustainably harvested wood raw materials

Choose products made from natural materials such as seed sticks or plants.

If purchasing fabric products, natural fabrics like organic cotton, linen and Tencel (semi-synthetic fibre is made from Eucalyptus trees) are more sustainable than man-made fabrics like Polyester and Nylon.

Ensure wood or paper products demonstrate the implementation of sustainable forest management practices. Look out for any one, or a combination of the following:

- **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)** certified timber
- **Responsible Wood Certification Scheme** certified timber
- Chain of custody certification under an equivalent standard, such as those recognised by the **Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC) Council**



## ✓ Choose products with third party environmental certifications

Third party environmental certifications, or ecolabels, identify products proven to be environmentally preferable within a specific category. There are hundreds of ecolabels globally, however, those developed in accordance with key international standards such as ISO 14024 and ISO 17065 or ISO Guide 65 (Conformance Assessment Bodies) are trusted, quality ecolabels.



## ✓ Choose products with reduced and/or recycled content packaging

The production of packaging products utilises significant resources and generates environmental impacts. As a minimum the products procured should have:

- reduced volume of packaging
- recyclable packaging
- packaging material that contains a minimum of 50% recycled content



## ✓ Buy local with locally produced materials

When possible, look for locally made products, made with locally produced materials. Buying locally reduces the environmental impacts of transportation and also supports our local communities.



See there **Where to buy guide** for information on how to purchase promotional materials at UQ through UQ Print. Purchasing through UQ's approved arrangements provides assurance that the supplier has been assessed by UQ as having a high level of environmental and ethical standards.