



Home Sustainability Purchasing Checklist

A Quick and Easy Sustainable Purchasing Audit Tool for the Home

DIRECTIONS:

Each of your purchases has an energy use footprint associated with it. Reducing this footprint reduces pollution and global climate change. For instance, one part of the footprint is the energy used to transport goods to you. Buying locally produced goods reduces the transport energy portion of the footprint. Another part of the footprint is the energy used to produce the goods. Buying second hand goods avoids the energy used to produce new goods. This booklet will guide you in decreasing the energy associated with your purchases. Add your points from all sections to determine your home's overall purchasing sustainability. Use the checklist to learn what other measures you could take to improve your sustainability score. Then, go to our website at www.worldgreen.org/points to report your points and receive recognition for your actions. Questions? Contact sustainability@leonardoacademy.org

PURCHASING CHECKLIST: TOTAL 300 POINTS

EASY LOW-COST PURCHASES:

___ Shop at farmers' markets or buy locally-produced food from your neighborhood supermarket or natural foods store.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Buy USDA certified organic food.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Buy products packaged in recyclable materials or products that use less packaging.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Buy items in bulk to further reduce packaging waste.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Buy reusable or recyclable products.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Buy reusable bags, such as cloth or canvas, to use when grocery shopping.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Buy used items or use “stuff exchange” websites such as www.freecycle.org instead of buying new items.

Usually (20 pts.) Sometimes (5 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Buy clothing made from sustainably-produced materials and manufactured by companies that provide fair working conditions and wages to employees.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Use dry cleaning companies that use environmentally sensitive cleaning systems. Purchase a reusable garment bag to transport your dry-cleaned clothes, and return your hangers to the dry cleaners for reuse or recycling.

Usually (15 pts.) Sometimes (5 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Purchase organic or environmentally safe cleaning products or make your own out of vinegar, baking soda, and water.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Buy sturdy cleaning tools (like mops, toilet bowl brushes, and dusters) that will last for a long time. Avoid disposable cleaning tools.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Purchase biodegradable, phosphorus-free laundry soap without chemical and dye additives.

Usually (5 pts.) Sometimes (2 pt.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Buy products made from natural ingredients that are not tested on animals.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Buy and use a digital camera to eliminate the use of hazardous chemicals for processing prints from film.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

PURCHASES OF APPLIANCES AND EQUIPMENT:

___ When shopping for electronics or major appliances, such as washers and dryers, refrigerators, and heating/cooling systems, buy ENERGY STAR labeled products.

Usually (30 pts.) Sometimes (10 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ When replacing your personal computer, purchase a refurbished model to reduce manufacturing waste.

Usually (20 pts.) Sometimes (5 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Download software online to reduce computer disk and packaging waste.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Conserve power (and manufacturing waste) by purchasing an all-in-one printer, copier, scanner, and fax machine.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

HOME IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE:

___ Buy low VOC paints, stains, varnishes, adhesives, and carpeting.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Buy FSC-certified wood for home repairs and improvements.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Use recycled or recyclable sheet flooring and carpeting. When replacing wood floors, choose sustainably harvested bamboo over conventionally harvested hardwood.

Usually (20 pts.) Sometimes (5 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

ADDITIONAL MEASURES:

___ Purchase an alternative fuel vehicle ___ (100 pts.) or vehicle that achieves overall fuel mileage greater than ___ 40 mpg (80 pts.), or ___ 60 mpg (120 pts.).

HOW DO YOU RATE?

200 and over = Gold

100 – 199 = Silver

50 – 99 = Bronze

20 – 49 = You are making an effort but can do more

Under 20 points = You can definitely do more with no-cost actions alone