

High Street Baptist Church

Ethical Purchasing Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Leadership Team of High Street Baptist Church (we) 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.
- 1.2. This policy relates to all activities done in the name of the church and for which the church is responsible. For external uses of the church building (e.g. external lets) we seek to encourage ethical practice through our lettings agreement and wider publicity.
- 1.3. 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 all church members and the wider community to adopt similar principles.

2. Principles

- 2.1. As a Leadership Team we recognise that ethical purchasing of goods and services may lead to increased costs. We will affirm those leading church groups who seek to follow this policy and by default accrue increased costs.
- 2.2. In our procurement we will seek to:
 - 2.2.1. purchase fairly traded products where available, including tea, coffee, sugar and cocoa products;
 - 2.2.2. follow the 'LOAF' principles (Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly, Fairly traded);
 - 2.2.3. support local businesses;
 - 2.2.4. avoid purchasing products derived from intensively farmed animals;
 - 2.2.5. buy higher-welfare animal products and avoid all products tested on animals;
 - 2.2.6. ensure that the purchasing of our utilities is obtained through companies that prioritise green energy and sustainability;
 - 2.2.7. obtain environmentally friendly cleaning and sanitary products;
 - 2.2.8. continually reduce our reliance on single-use plastic and
 - 2.2.9. purchase products and services which demonstrate the best ethical credentials e.g. anti-slavery policy, green policy, recycled packaging, recycled paper, local producer.
- 2.3. In our wider financing, we will:
 - 2.3.1. seek to tithe 10% of our annual income (based on the March 2018 agreement);
 - 2.3.2. monitor our bank account / savings account / investments to maintain an ethical approach to the church's banking;
 - 2.3.3. annually seek to offset the church's carbon footprint with a view to securing net-zero carbon emissions.

2.4. We prefer usage of recycled products and will encourage recycling as widely as possible to those in the church and the community.

3. Interpretation

3.1. It is recognised that individual members of the church may have strongly held and different interpretations for what is acceptable for them and their family. Where variances of view exist, the Church Secretary will be responsible for coming to an informed view on the appropriate course of action for the church.