



- CONSCIOUS

PURCHASING POLICY -

PRINCIPLE: Our fundamental operating principle is that in our every deliberation we must consider our impact on the next seven generations. Employees will use this policy to evaluate vendors when making a company purchase for goods or services.

PURPOSE: Seventh Generation employees are expected to make the extra effort to research and interface with vendors in order to make a more responsible purchasing decision. Employees should be buying local, sustainable products from responsible, forward-thinking businesses whenever possible.

In our every purchase we must consider:



NURTURING NATURE- How is the product made? What kind of energy went into the production? Are the ingredients renewable? Does the production of this product harm the ecosystem? Is there a responsible end of life for this product (compost, recycling)? Does this service minimize waste and use eco-friendly practices?



ENHANCING HEALTH- Does this product promote a healthy lifestyle? Is there a non-toxic alternative? Would you want this in your child's school? Is it organic? Does this service utilize LEED or similar green methods? Are they using Low/No-VOC products?



BUILDING COMMUNITIES- Can we buy this from a locally-owned, locally-operated business instead of China? Does this vendor give back to the community in some way? Are you supporting a company that's taking care of your neighbors? Is it Fair Trade? Is this service part of an out of state service chain or are they a homegrown business?



TRANSFORMING COMMERCE- Is the vendor honest and transparent? Would this vendor support TSCA reform? Does this company do things in a business as usual way, or are they setting the pace for change? Are they a B Corp? Would you say this service provider understands Seventh Generation and why we exist?

If the answer for many of these questions is "No," then there must be a better option out there for the respective goods or services. A little research can go a long way into finding a mission-aligned organization, and if you're struggling to locate one, seek the assistance of your fellow community members.

When joining Seventh Generation, everyone embraced and accepted the challenge to Live the Great Law. This necessitates that we do business differently than most and we use The Great Law to inform all business decisions. As such, the following are the expectations for ALL employees of Seventh Generation:

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

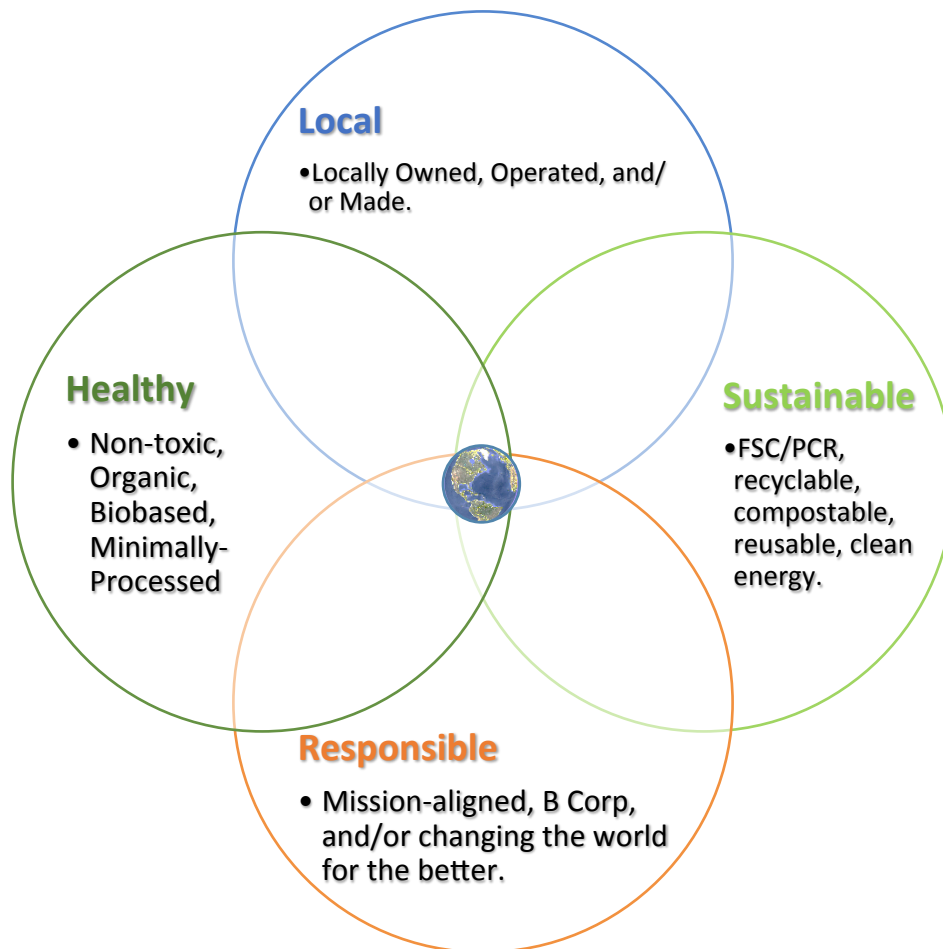
Whenever possible, Purchases **should**:

- Be for reusable, recyclable or compostable products, not single-use; if it will end up in the trash, **don't buy it unless absolutely necessary**.
- Keep money in the local community whenever possible; choose a local co-op over a chain retailer.
- Prioritize healthy, toxin-free alternatives to toxic or sugar-laden contemporary decisions.
- Be for services and items manufactured or grown using sustainable practices (ex: FSC, Organic, Biobased, LEED Certified, etc.)

Whenever possible, Purchases **should not**:

- Prioritize cost-cutting over sustainability, health, or locality; Seventh Generation accepts a reasonably higher cost to support the community in which it operates.
- Compromise for convenience when a better option exists; there is always enough time to do the right thing.
- Be made hastily to satisfy a perceived need; it seems fun to throw in a gadget in a swag bag at the sales meeting, but that gadget likely came from the very industry giants we seek to distinguish ourselves from.
- Circumvent this policy by securing a third party to make an unethical purchase. A third party vendor purchasing goods for us does not negate the fact that we used our money to buy the *wrong* stuff.

PURCHASE PRIORITY MATRIX:



This matrix illustrates the complexity of getting the perfect vendor that does everything right. Sometimes the local option isn't the most responsible and sustainable one; sometimes the healthiest option is made unsustainably or owned by a company that has no Corporate Social Responsibility program. When we find vendors that aren't quite perfect, it's our job to use our voice to motivate them to become better; that's how we Transform Commerce.

VERMONT PREFERRED VENDOR LIST: (THIS LIST IS NOT MEANT TO BE

COMPREHENSIVE, SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME!)

PRODUCTS:	RETAILER:	WHY WE USE THEM:
General Groceries: Monument Farms Cream, Sugar, Bee Haven Honey, Salt, Pepper	City Market Co-Op	
Bulk Coffee & Filters	Capitol Grounds	
Bulk Tea	Stone Leaf	
Nuts & Trail mix	Nuts.com	
Catering	New Moon	
Stalkmarket Disposable Tableware	Amazon	
Hot Cocoa & Chocolate	Equalexchange.com	
General Office Supplies	Givesomethingback.com	
Envelopes, Business Cards	Prestone Printing	
Cascades Paper	WBMason.com	
Clothing	Select Design	
Bona Floor Care & Non-VOC Painting Supplies	Able Paint & Glass	
High-Efficiency Light Bulbs	Burlington Electrical Supply	
Trash Bags	Webstrauntstore.com	
Steelcase Office Furniture	Red Thread	

KEY:

	Organic: Products produced using methods that preserve the environment and avoid most synthetic materials, such as pesticides and antibiotics.
	Local: Locally-owned, locally-operated, and/or locally-made products.
	Compostable: The Biodegradable Products Institute or local Green Mountain Composting facility have indicated this product as being truly compostable.
	Recyclable or Recycled: The product is capable of reentering the production stream in a meaningful way, not simply melted down and turned into a dog toy in Indonesia; or this product is made from at least 50% PCR material.
	B Corp: B Corps are certified by the nonprofit B Lab to meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency.
	Sustainably-Sourced: Product is certified by a 3 rd party to be comprised of sustainably grown and harvested materials.
	High-Quality: This is a well-made, well-grown, or well-harvested product that is a cut above the rest.
	Fair-Trade: Fair Trade goods are just that. Fair. From far-away farms to your shopping cart, products that bear the logo come from farmers and workers who are justly compensated.

This policy does not include local hiring preferences or local supply chain purchasing as these are outlined in separate documents

