

# Windhorse Farm Sustainable Purchasing Guide

## 1) Assess the need for the product

**Service:** What service does it provide? Is the service important?

**Service vs. product:** Can we buy a service or labour instead of a product?

**Sharing:** Can we rent, share or borrow it?

**Self-sufficiency:** Do we already have it? Can we make it?

**Re-use:** Can we get a used product? Does that really reduce its impacts?

**Frugality:** Can we live without it by choice?

## 2) Environmental Filter

What is the product made of? How was it produced? How will its production, use or disposal result in...

**(1) Pollution from materials extracted from the Earth's crust?**

- Fossil fuel
- Heavy metal
- Mineral

**(2) Pollution from substances produced by society?**

- Plastic
- Non-biodegradable
- Toxic

**(3) Degradation of natural systems by physical means?**

- Overharvesting
- Land clearing
- Modification

Look at the "Sustainable Product Guide" - does a sustainability evaluation already exist?  
Look at the "Substances to Avoid" guide - are any "high risk" substances involved?

## 4) Economic Filter

**Is it affordable now and in the long term?**

- Purchase cost
- Maintenance cost
- Disposal cost
- Return on investment

**Is it supporting a sustainable (local) economy?**

- Sustainable livelihoods
- Ecological industries

## 3) Social Filter

**Will it lead to benefit for our community?**

- Social harmony
- Clear ownership

**Who made it? Can the producers meet their basic human needs?**

- Fair wages
- Safe working conditions
- Political freedom

**Does it support a healthy global community?**

- Increased global equity
- Healthy people in a healthy environment?

*Think about the options for disposal too!*

## 5) Spiritual Filter

Does it lead to an increase in kindness, compassion, and awareness among people?

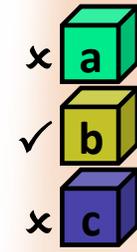
## 6) Magical Filter

Does it encourage a connection to the peacefulness and beauty of this place?

## 7) Make a Sustainable Choice

What would a sustainable product look like?

- Environmentally
- Socially
- Economically
- Spiritually
- Magically



Identify the product that is the best "next step" toward sustainability. **Buy it.**

**Disposal** Which path gives the most benefit for the product when it's no longer needed?

**Re-use again**

- Creatively reuse
- Sell
- Give away

**Re-cycle completely**

- Substances from the Earth's crust
- Substances produced by society
- Biological materials (are carefully returned to living systems)