

Cheriton Treehouse

Green Purchasing Policy

1. Every purchase must cover a real need of the treehouse whilst taking into account the treehouse category.
2. In any negotiation with the supplying company, we will inform them about our company's environmental policy and we will ask the supplier to inform us about the various environmentally-friendly products on offer. In addition, we will inform the suppliers about the environmentally-friendly specifications that are of interest to us and we will inquire whether the company in question has a similar policy. These specifications are based on specific European Union and international regulations, as well as scientific information on the respective subjects.

In order for the purchase of any product to be realised, three conditions should apply:

- the above mentioned specifications should be complied with as far as possible;
- there should be no alternatives available;
- the price should be identical or slightly above the price of the respective "conventional" product.

3. Priority will be given to products from the local markets (on a regional, area and county level) provided that they meet the requirements and basic needs of the company. As far as the final decision on any purchase is concerned, the important factor of product transportation should always be considered, from the point of view of both air pollution and fuel consumption (non-renewable sources of energy) during transportation.
4. Priority should be given to recyclable and returnable products as well as those from recycled materials (mostly paper, aluminium, glass, plastic) without excessive multiple packaging (the more complex a product is, the more materials are used in its production and the more waste is disposed of into the environment).

5. In general, preference is given, wherever possible, to the purchase of products in bulk and re-useable or returnable packages. This practice reduces both the cost and the useless packaging that ends up as waste.
6. The purchase of items such as disposable items are to be avoided and, wherever their use is necessary, biodegradable products are preferred.
7. Among the artificial and chemical products of everyday use, preference is given to those with the least damaging effects on the environment and human health.
8. The purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables and the promotion, wherever possible, of Somerset, local, traditional products and organic cultivation products should be applied.
9. Regarding the purchase of equipment, priority is given to the products that consume less water, energy and fuel and do not contain CFCs.
10. The use of materials containing substances dangerous to public health and the environment (such as organic solvents, asbestos, lead, polyurethane, etc.) should be avoided in the construction of the treehouse, manufacturing of furniture, insulation & decoration during renovations.

ATTENTION: Objects and materials from tropical forests and animals protected by the CITIES international treaty (e.g. turtles, crocodiles, elephants, etc.) are to be avoided.