

Byron Shire Sustainable Shopping Challenge

We make daily choices about what we purchase, as well as what we do with unwanted household and clothing items. The products we buy have an impact on the environment during manufacture, transportation to the place of purchase, whilst in use and also after they are disposed of!

Your challenge is to adopt the following sustainable purchasing principles:



- Buy local
- Avoid excess and unnecessary packaging
- Consider social /environmental impacts of individual products & companies
- Look for recycled or second-hand products
- Avoid disposing of items that can be re-used by someone else!

Ethical Shopping

Buying ethically encourages innovative products and companies, while discouraging companies that ignore the social and environmental consequences of their actions. Being an 'ethical consumer' can take a number of forms:

- Positive buying - favouring ethical products, whether they are fair trade, organic or cruelty free. This directly supports progressive companies.
- Avoidance - avoiding products you disapprove of, such as battery-farmed eggs.
- Getting active – boycotting certain products or companies, writing letters, emails, calling or signing petitions. Active consumers may even be motivated to talk to their friends about an issue.

References:

www.ethical.org.au/, www.sustainablellawarra.com.au/Better-Buying.html#op

Second-Hand Shopping

Choosing second hand clothing and products is an important way to reduce waste and save valuable resources that go into making new goods. Byron Shire has many op shops and second hand stores, many of which also accept donations of good quality, unwanted clothes and household goods.

Swap don't shop!

Swap gatherings open up a new world of fashion, fun and practicality – whilst keeping unwanted items out of landfill and reducing demand for resource-intensive new stuff. Friends, colleagues, neighbours or community groups simply get together to exchange quality unwanted clothing and accessories for free!

Keep your eye out for local swap events or why not organise a swap party yourself. Planet Ark has put together a handy 'how to' guide for hosting a swap party of your own –

www.recyclingweek.planetark.org/involvement/swap.cfm