

Resources:

Information on Fair Trade and Certifying Organizations

<http://www.fairtrade.net>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fair_trade
<http://wfto.com/fair-trade/definition-fair-trade>
<http://www.fairtradeamerica.org/>
<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en>
<https://www.fairtradecertified.org/>
<http://fairworldproject.org/about/movements/fair-trade/certifiers-membership-orgs/>
<http://equalexchange.coop/>

Associations that Recognize Organizations Dedicated to Fair-trade

<https://www.fairtradefederation.org/>
<http://www.wfto.com/>

Sites to help with socially responsible shopping:

<http://fairworldproject.org/>
<http://www.greenamerica.org/>
<http://www.endslaverynow.org/>
<http://www.endslaverynow.org/act/buy-slave-free/slave-free-companies>
<https://unionmadegoods.com/>
<http://www.betterworldshopper.com/>
<https://betterworldshopper.org/the-research/> (links to more information)
<http://www.thegoodshoppingguide.com/>
<http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-sweatshop_movement

Find Local Sources for Fair-trade Products:

<http://www.serrv.org/>

Other considerations:

Guide to central Madison restaurants that informs customers and workers about the wages, benefits and working conditions for employees:

<http://wrcmadison.org/WP/just-dining/>

Slave Free Chocolate: <http://www.slavefreechocolate.org/>

Right Sharing of World Resources: <http://www.rswr.org/>

Social and Environmental Justice: <https://globalexchange.org/blogs/>

Organization of Young People Trying to Change the World:

<https://www.dosomething.org/about/who-we-are-0>

SAY NO TO SLAVERY SHOP FAIR-TRADE

Fact: There are more slaves in the world today than during the time of the USA Civil War.



Image source: <http://www.afairtradeplace.com>

Why buy Fair-trade?

A growing phenomenon in today's world is the concern for socially responsible shopping. There are a growing number of people who want to spend their money in accordance with their values such as environmental concerns and not supporting slave labor or other concerns. Thus the growing interest in shopping from companies concerned about social responsibility and environmental sustainability. This might include companies that insure a slave free supply chain, are green, treat their workers well, invest in their local communities, support charitable organizations and meet other social justice criteria.

The Fair-trade movement is a big part of this movement.

“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.” Robert F Kennedy

What is Fair-trade?

Fair Trade is a lot of things: a social justice movement, a tool for insuring improved environmental standards, an alternative business model, a system of global commerce, a tool for international development, a faith based activity. A portion of Fair Trade profits are dedicated to local community development funds. Various models and concepts exist, but they all center around the exchange of goods based on principles of economic and social justice. The ability of farmers and other producers to support themselves and their communities means they are not pushed into the illegal drug trade and are less vulnerable to exploitation via sex trafficking and slavery.

The goal of Fair Trade is to help producers achieve better trading conditions and to promote sustainability. Fair trade is grounded in three core beliefs:

1. producers have the power to express unity with consumers
2. world trade practices that currently exist promote the unequal distribution of wealth between nations
3. buying products from producers in developing countries at a fair price is a more efficient way of promoting sustainable development than traditional charity and aid

Process for Fair-trade Certification

With different definitions, and no single, authoritative body, Fair Trade Certification takes many forms. Different organizations and individuals use different criteria for determining what is, and isn't, Fair Trade.

The two most widely recognized ways of identifying Fair Trade are organizational recognition and product certification. With organizational recognition, a trading organization is approved as Fair Trade. For these traders, almost every item they sell is a Fair Trade product. Not only are producers treated fairly through fair prices and social premiums, but other practices of the trading relationship are conducted in concert with Fair Trade values and goals.

(Adapted from: <https://www.fairtradefederation.org>, <http://www.fairtrade.net/>, <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en>, <http://www.fairtraderesource.org/> & https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fair_trade)



See the following for criteria for organizational recognition:

1. <https://www.fairtradefederation.org/>
2. <http://www.wfto.com/>

Common Principles for Product Certification

1. Fair Prices
2. Fair and Safe Labor Conditions
3. Direct Trade
4. Democratic and Transparent Organizations
5. Community Development
6. Environmental Sustainability

(Adapted from: <https://www.fairtradefederation.org>, <http://fairworldproject.org>, <http://fairtradeusa.org>, <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en> & https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fair_trade)

Reference Guide to Fair Trade and Worker Welfare Programs:

<http://fairworldproject.org/resources/certifier-analysis/>

Some Fair-trade Stories

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/farmers-and-workers>

<http://www.fairtrade.net/producers/meet-the-producers.html>

http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/FTDoc/F14_Action_guide_with_insert.pdf

Some Other Sources of Information

Documentary: The True Cost

Book: The Virtuous Consumer: Your Essential Shopping Guide for a Better, Kinder, Healthier World