

Khalsa Gurmat Center Environmental Purchasing Policy

Revision 1.1

Dated: March 12, 2024

Objective

To actively reduce Khalsa Gurmat Center's environmental footprint through responsible and sustainable purchasing practices.

Scope

This policy applies to all purchases made by Khalsa Gurmat Center, including:

- Food service
- Educational materials and classroom supplies
- Office supplies
- Cleaning and maintenance supplies
- Recommendations to parents and community members for relevant purchases

Guiding Principles

1. Eco-friendly Purchasing:

Food:

- Prioritize organic, locally sourced, and seasonal foods whenever possible to minimize transportation emissions.
- Explore the feasibility of creating a garden on-site to grow fresh produce.
- Purchase food in bulk to reduce packaging waste.
- Select suppliers who utilize sustainable farming practices and offer fair trade products.
- Give preference to products with minimal and recyclable packaging.

Supplies:

- Whenever possible, choose products made from recycled content or with minimal environmental impact.
- Avoid single-use plastics and opt for recycled, recyclable, or compostable alternatives.
- Invest in high-quality, durable materials to minimize waste.
- Select environmentally friendly cleaning and maintenance products.

Recommendations:

- Encourage parents and community members to adopt similar eco-friendly purchasing practices when making choices relevant to Khalsa Gurmat Center activities.

2. Sustainable Practices:

- Implement a waste sorting system for recycling and composting to divert waste from landfills.
- Utilize reusable products whenever possible, such as cloth napkins and refillable water bottles.
- Select energy-efficient appliances and encourage practices that reduce energy and water consumption throughout the Center.
- Implement water conservation measures in restrooms, landscaping, and cleaning routines.

Implementation

- Khalsa Gurmat Center will establish a purchasing committee including parents to review product options and identify those that meet the outlined criteria.
- Staff will be educated on this policy and encouraged to make eco-friendly choices when

placing orders.

- Suppliers will be evaluated based on their commitment to environmental sustainability.
- The purchasing policy will be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect evolving best practices.

Communication

- This policy will be communicated to staff, volunteers, parents, and the community through various channels, including:
- Posting on the Khalsa Gurmat Center website and social media platforms.
- Inclusion in relevant newsletters and publications.
- Displaying signage within the Center promoting eco-friendly practices.

By adopting this purchasing policy, Khalsa Gurmat Center demonstrates its commitment to environmental stewardship and inspires its community to embrace a more sustainable future.