

The Arts and Science Federation of Associations (ASFA)

Ethical Purchasing Policy

Updated May 24th, 2020

Introduction

The Arts and Science Federation of Associations (ASFA) bears responsibility not only as a consumer, but also as a representative of the student body at Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science, to ensure that its procurement policies and practices do not conflict with its stated values. The purpose of the Purchasing Policy will be to make the practical application of these values and standards possible in the financial conduct of ASFA. The Purchasing Policy takes into consideration three aspects: sustainability, ethical practices, and financial solvency.

The Arts and Science Federation Association recognizes that these measures do not ensure perfect ethical purchasing nor a completely sustainable Federation. However, adhering to this policy will ensure that some effort is made to be conscious of the purchases we make and the power we have as a federation to divest from fossil fuels, environmental harm and degradation, unethical labour practices and social injustice.

1. Where alternatives exist in the industry ASFA and its Member Associations will not conduct business of any kind with companies that if available from credible sources avoid purchasing from providers who inflict excessive or unnecessary suffering upon animals.
2. ASFA and its Member Associations shall give preference to suppliers that are based in the province of Quebec, which use minimal or biodegradable packaging, produce organic products, encompass a recognized fair trade label, and use recycled or reused materials. If no suppliers are available within Quebec and adequate measures have been taken to illustrate this, ASFA and its Member Associations may also give preference to suppliers from Canada.
3. Similarly, ASFA and its Member Associations shall give preference to products which are biodegradable, recyclable, organic, based on fair trade principles, durable and of a high quality.
4. ASFA and its Member Associations shall attempt to seek products carrying the eco-logo certification.
5. ASFA and its Member Associations shall attempt to purchase organic foods which carry organic certification from, including, but not limited to the following agencies: OCIA (with regulation number); Quebec Vrai; Demeter; or Garantie Bio.
6. ASFA and its Member Associations shall attempt to purchase food from community centered, student-run caterers that adhere to the standards defined in the Sustainability Food Policy and Practice advocated by Sustainable Concordia in their Sustainable Community Guide. This guide can be located on the Sustainable Concordia website or from the following

link:

<http://sustainableconcordia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Sustainable-Event-Guide-2017.pdf>

7. ASFA and its Member Associations shall seek products that are fair-trade certified, particularly coffee, tea, and chocolate.
8. ASFA will keep track of supply and demand of materials, food, and equipment for all its events to reduce the amount of waste produced and to prevent overspending in partnership with Sustainable Concordia
9. This policy will be distributed to all ASFA and Member Association executives at the beginning of their term and signed by all signing officers. If newly elected Member Association executives begin their term after by-elections, the information will then be disseminated to them by the ASFA executive team.
10. This policy will be updated every 3 years starting in 2019.
11. ASFA and its Member Associations shall not purchase single use plastics for their events. This includes but is not limited to: plastic straws, plastic cutlery, plastic water bottles and disposable plastic cups. ASFA and its Member Associations shall instead strive to utilize reusable items for events as well as biodegradable materials. Reusable and free materials may be located from The Dish Project at the following link: <https://dishproject.ca/>.
12. ASFA and its Member Associations shall make attempts to reduce or eliminate the purchase of meats, dairy and fish that are not sustainably sourced.
13. ASFA and its Member Associations shall prioritize purchasing food for events which is ethically sourced and which contributes minimally to environmental degradation. This includes but is not limited to: vegan and vegetarian food options. Should any food remain at the end of the event and in order to reduce food waste, ASFA and its Member Associations shall strive to donate the unused food to the student body, a local food bank, or a soup kitchen dedicated to feeding those less fortunate.