



Ethical Purchasing Policy Vagabond Tours

Introduction:

At Vagabond Tours, we are committed to promoting ethical practices and sustainability in our operations. This purchasing policy outlines our guidelines and expectations when selecting and engaging with suppliers. We strive to work with suppliers who share our values and uphold high ethical standards. By doing so, we aim to create positive social and environmental impacts while providing exceptional customer experiences.

Supplier Selection:

Ethical Standards: We prioritise suppliers who demonstrate a commitment to ethical practices, including fair treatment of workers, adherence to labour laws, and respect for human rights. Ireland is part of the EU and operates under the EU laws ensuring fair wages, safe working conditions, and no exploitation of workers.

Environmental Sustainability: We give preference to suppliers who actively manage their environmental impact, promote sustainable practices, and work towards reducing their carbon footprint. Examples include The Armada Hotel and Gouganne Barra Hotel which we use as accommodation for our guests. Both hotels have taken steps to reduce their carbon footprint e.g. Gouganne Barra source all their food locally and The Armada Hotel are B Corp certified.

Local Engagement: We seek to support local communities and businesses by staying in smaller off-the-beaten-track towns and villages, giving preference to

suppliers who employ local staff, promote local products that reflect Ireland's nature, history and culture, and contribute to the local economy.

Supply Chain Transparency:

Collaboration: We foster open and honest communication with suppliers, encouraging dialogue on ethical practices, sustainability initiatives, and continuous improvement in their operations. We are currently working on communications with our suppliers through a sustainability survey to encourage suppliers to partake in a carbon workshop held by STI hosted by Vagabond Tours in the coming months.

Traceability: We prioritise suppliers who can provide transparent information about the origin and sourcing of their products and services, ensuring compliance with legal environmental and ethical standards. Examples include “who gives a crap” toilet paper company that provides full transparency on where and how their toilet paper is made sourced and how it is delivered. We are currently working with Roody an Irish company that supplies ethically sourced and made products for our future merchandise line.

Fair Trade and Responsible Tourism:

Fair Trade Principles: Vagabond Tours as a business operates within Ireland. As an EU country, Ireland operates under EU laws ensuring fair wages, safe working conditions, and no exploitation of workers and the use or selling of threatened species. Vagabond Tours actively seeks suppliers who embrace fair trade principles.

Community Involvement: We engage with local communities, promote cultural heritage, and support community development initiatives. We currently do this by taking our guests to local small heritage sites e.g. Kenmare Stone Circle and Glenveigh National Park. We actively support local teams e.g. Greystones local Rugby club and are involved with the local litter pick in the Wicklow area where we have our headquarters.

Responsible Tourism: We collaborate with suppliers who share our commitment to responsible tourism, minimising negative impacts on the environment, respecting local cultures, and promoting responsible traveller behaviour.

Continuous Improvement

Capacity Building: We support suppliers in improving their ethical and sustainability practices through training, sharing best practices, and providing resources whenever possible. Currently working on supporting our suppliers with an STI carbon workshop.

Updates: We periodically review and update our purchasing policy to reflect emerging ethical concerns, changing regulations, and industry best practices. This policy is a continuously changing document.

Stakeholder Engagement:

Collaboration: We actively engage with our staff, customers, and local communities to raise awareness about our ethical purchasing practices, encouraging their participation and feedback. We advise our guests on sustainable travel practices before and after their tours.

Partnerships: We seek partnerships with organisations, industry associations, and NGOs that promote ethical practices, sustainability, and responsible tourism and that have environmental sustainability certifications like STI or B Corp. We are members of ITOA (Incoming Tour Operators Association Ireland) and IAAT - (Ireland's Association of Adventure Tourism) Rob Rankin is the founding chairman of IAAT and has led the executive group to build sustainability into its constitution.

Vagabond has communicated its values on sustainability to suppliers previously and particularly now through our sister company (STI) We are a proud member of B Corp and will continue to be.

Conclusion: At Vagabond Tours, we recognize that our purchasing decisions have far-reaching impacts. By adhering to this Ethical Purchasing Policy, we strive to create a positive difference in the lives of workers, our staff, local communities, and the environment. We are committed to continuously improving our practices, collaborating with like-minded suppliers, and promoting responsible tourism in Ireland and beyond.

A few questions to ask yourself before you purchase

- Do we really need it? or need a new one?
- Can we get it second-hand?
- Can we fix it?
- Can we upcycle it?
- Can Myburgh build it???... Yes, she probably can

If you still need to purchase after asking yourself these questions then before you purchase ask yourself these

- Is it made in Ireland?
- Is it produced in Ireland?
- Is it from an Irish company?
- Is it plastic-free? Can we avoid single-use plastics with the product?
- Is it made from a natural material? Wood, hemp, cotton, steel,
- Is it chemical-free?
- Is it A+++ rated?
- Is the company you are going to purchase from legit and transparent with their sustainability information?
- Is it good for the environment? The environment includes us
- Is there any greenwashing going on?

The list goes on!

Once you start looking at items in this way it becomes easy after a while and there are way more options out there now than there was even last week!

List of suppliers: please feel free to add in a supplier when you find the right one

CLEANING	PRODUCT	SUPPLIER
Bus external	NOH20	https://noh2o.com/
Bus internal	Floor cleaning	https://www.lillysecoclean.com/
Bathroom	Hand wash toilet paper	https://eu.whogivesacrap.org
Washing machine	Wash tabs	https://www.ecover.com/
Cleaning cloths (microfibers to be phased out)	Bamboo cloths(still in the research phase)	
OFFICE		
Stationary (aim for zero plastic, recycled paper chlorine free paper from sustainable sources, refill inks for cartridges, nontoxic inks e.g. algae inks) buy from an Irish company produced in Ireland.	Pens, pencils notepads, paper, ink, ink cartridges, Folders, maps, banners	In the process of finding a suitable supplier thefactory.ie
Electronic equipment (the aim is for A+++) buy Irish from an Irish company produced in Ireland if possible! Difficult one.	Laptops, printers, scanners, and phones	in the process of finding a suitable supplier

