

CLOTHING FOR A CAUSE

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

January, 2016

Our Business

For the last decade *Clothing for a Cause* has provided a valuable textile recycling service to the public. Our mission is to convert the waste of our affluent society into sources of funding for the impoverished nation of Haiti while helping to preserve the environment in the process. We greatly reduce the amount of post consumer textile waste from entering area landfills by collecting unwanted clothing and selling it to international recyclers who then sort and grade the clothing which is subsequently used by small merchants in developing nations. This provides small merchants in developing nations with a low cost product that they can use to generate livelihood thereby supporting themselves, their families and their communities. The resulting revenue we generate from this endeavour enables us to support Haiti Arise Ministries, several other ministries in Haiti as well as other worthwhile local organizations.

Our Commitment

As a business with a social conscience, *Clothing for a Cause* recognizes the preservation of our environment as a global issue and we are committed to helping reduce this problem. Protecting the environment is one of our guiding principles. The textile recycling we do has many positive environmental impacts including the reduction of solid waste and other forms of pollution created in the textile making process. Textile recycling also has a positive effect on the environment by reusing and recycling raw materials such as cotton, silk and wool which in turns reduces the need for pollution-causing and energy-consuming processes that are needed to cultivate, harvest, weave and process these materials and subsequent products. Moreover, land otherwise engaged in textile fibre production can be reallocated to food production and the labour and capital otherwise involved in textile production can also be put to higher and better uses rather than to recreating clothing that already exists. On a global scale, there are enormous gains from re-using still serviceable goods. Used clothing clearly has value in the marketplace and constitutes income to those who receive it. Whenever this income can be put to good use in helping those in need, it results in a net global economic gain, while discarding it results in a net worldwide loss. By selling unwanted clothing and household textiles to international recyclers, we are not only making a positive impact on our environment but the revenue we generate from this endeavour enables us to support Haiti Arise Ministries, several other ministries in Haiti as well as other worthwhile local organizations.

Our Mission Statement

In addition to the positive environmental impact we are making through our textile recycling service, we endeavor to create a safe and healthy workplace and to use the best environmental practices in all we do. Therefore, we are committed to identifying, understanding and reducing the negative environmental impacts of our business activities, prioritizing the impacts over which we have the most control and influence.

Given the nature of our business and basic daily operations, the key areas of focus for reducing our negative environmental impacts are:

Transportation

- We will reduce the need to travel, restricting to necessity trips only and mapping efficient truck routes to reduce fuel consumption and air pollution
- We will promote the use of travel alternatives such as e-mail or video/phone conferencing when possible
- We will make efforts to accommodate the needs of those using public transport or bicycles to encourage these choices

Waste

- We will reuse and recycle everything we are able to.
- We will minimize the use of paper in the office.
- We will seek to buy recycled and recyclable paper products.

Energy

- We will seek to reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible
- Lights and electrical equipment will be switched off when not in use.
- Heating will be adjusted with energy conservation in mind.
- The energy consumption and efficiency of new products will be taken into account when purchasing.

Goods & Services

- We will evaluate if the need can be met in another way before purchasing new (stationary, electronics, furniture, cleaning supplies, etc.)
- We will evaluate if renting/sharing/borrowing is an option before purchasing new
- We will evaluate the environmental impact of any new products we intend to purchase.
- We will favour more environmentally friendly and efficient products
- We will favour environmentally responsible business services (banking, website, waste disposal, etc.)

Implementation

- We will incorporate environmental factors into business decisions.
- We will increase employee awareness through relevant training.
- We will involve staff in the implementation of this policy for greater commitment and improved performance.
- We will review this policy and any related business issues at regular intervals
- We will regularly implement improvements to our environmental performance.
- We will update this policy at least once annually in consultation with staff, suppliers and all distribution channels.

Community Focus

- We will work with all suppliers and distribution channels to encourage and help improve their environmental performance.
- We will use local labour and materials whenever possible to reduce CO2 and help the community.
- We will integrate a green message into marketing materials, advertising and correspondence to encourage the public to adopt a similar ethos

Our Responsibility

This environmental policy will be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure it remains relevant as our business grows and changes. All employees of *Clothing for a Cause* have a responsibility in their area to meet the aims and objectives of this policy.