



## Stewardship of Creation

### Ecological Economics: Fair Trade Opportunities

A *circular economy* is one which involves sharing, reusing, repairing, and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible. This type of economy encourages less usage and waste, less strain on natural resources, and challenges manufacturers and corporations to use resources wisely and create quality products.

*Fair trade* helps “producers in developing countries achieve sustainable and equitable trade relationships.” It creates a better price structure, better working conditions, and often utilizes higher quality and recycled materials in production.

These websites and tools will help guide you in selecting products for your parish or family which create opportunities for the poor and vulnerable, as well as recycle products or utilize high-quality products with extended usage.

#### Read about Fair Trade

<https://ignatiansolidarity.net/resources/fair-trade-resources/> - Ignatian Solidarity explains how to find fair trade products and the principles of fair trade.

<https://fairtradecampaigns.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/fair-trade-and-catholic-social-teaching-june-2010.pdf> - This CRS explainer connects fair trade with the seven pillars of Catholic Social Teaching.

#### Global Fair Trade Opportunities

<https://www.serrv.org/> - Serrv International partnered with CRS for a number of years. Product options include kitchen, home, garden, fashion, and seasonal gifts.

<https://shop.equalexchange.coop/> - At Equal Exchange, find fair trade coffee, chocolate, tea, and more.

<https://madefree.co/> - Made Free purchases combat human trafficking, slavery, and poverty. Shop their collection of bags and other carrying cases.

<https://www.fairtradeamerica.org/shop-fairtrade/> - Explore certified fair trade products and learn how to identify fair trade products as you shop major retailers and brands.

#### Local Fair Trade Opportunities

<https://craftedfairtrade.org> - Formerly Ten Thousand Villages, Crafted is located in Overland Park and supplies fair trade products and stories.

<https://www.fairtradefederation.org/members/goex/> - GOEX t-shirts and fleece are sewn at a living-wage factory in Haiti; screen printing also available. Available at multiple stores around Kansas City and for wholesale.

Are we missing any? Contact [lifeandjustice@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:lifeandjustice@diocesekcsj.org) with your suggestions.