

Sustainable Shopping Guide

Buying eco friendly clothing saves huge amounts of resources throughout all steps of producing clothing. However, it is difficult to find truly sustainable clothing options. It is important to do your research to ensure no environmental harm or social injustices occurred in the making of an item. Here's a guide to sustainable clothing options that can be bought locally or online.

Local Stores

YWCA Shop for Good: Women's Resale Boutique

1107 Central Ave, Wilmette

The best way to shop sustainably is to buy USED! Shopping at YWCA Shop for Good reduces waste and supports your local community. 100% of profits help support YWCA's domestic violence and economic empowerment programs for women across northeastern Cook County. The shop is made possible through your donations, so if you have clothing you no longer want bring them to YWCA Shop for Good to give them a second life! YWCA Shop for Good sells outerwear, shoes, boots, purses, jewelry, and accessories, offers a designer section, and even brand-new items with manufacturers' and store tags still attached.

Buffalo Exchange

1478 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago

Buffalo Exchange is a stylish and trendy clothing resale shop. When people think used clothes they often think out of style. However, Buffalo Exchange debunks that idea with their previously owned clothes. Buffalo Exchange also purchases clothing from consumers. Therefore, if you have items that don't work with your closet anymore but they can still be worn take them to Buffalo Exchange to see if you can get some cash for your items!

Mod + Ethico

27 N Morgan St #1, Chicago

Mod + Ethico is a clothing and lifestyle store that curates pieces made socially responsibly and sustainably. Mod + Ethico is dedicated to a better future for fashion through providing items made in the U.S.A., fair-trade practices, eco-friendly materials and small scale production.

Crossroads

1730 Sherman Ave, Evanston

Much like buffalo Exchange, Crossroads is redefining used clothing by selling current, on-trend clothing and accessories. Crossroads is also an option for selling your used, trendy clothing you may not wear anymore. This is a affordable way to shop sustainably by purchasing used clothes rather than resource intensive, new items.

Greenheart shop

2950 W Chicago Ave Suite 105 Chicago

Greenheart Shop is Chicago's only non-profit, fair trade shop. Greenheart Shop sources products that do as little harm as possible - to people, communities, and the environment. All of the products sold are fair trade, eco-friendly, or carry a social mission.

Ten Thousand Villages

719 Main St Evanston

Ten Thousand Villages is a way for you to shop with intention for ethically-sourced products from jewelry and accessories to home décor. As a pioneer of fair trade, Ten Thousand Villages do business differently, putting people and planet first. That means you can trust that every handmade purchase you make from Ten thousand Villages directly impacts the life and community of its maker in a developing country. They focus on the use of locally sourced, recycled and renewable materials in our products. They promote creative re-use and energy efficiency in artisan workshops and our supply chain to minimize our environmental footprint.

Online Stores

Rent the Runway

Rent the Runway is an online service that provides designer dress and accessory rentals. Every time you rent, you're saving all the water, electricity and missions used to manufacture a new piece of clothing.

Poshmark

Poshmark is a leading social commerce marketplace where people from the United States can buy and sell new or used clothing, shoes and accessories.

The Reformation

The Reformation creates products only from sustainable and upcycled materials in a fair wage environment. Reformation's dedication to sustainable production is extensively explained on their website, and each item comes with a description of its environmental footprint.

PACT

PACT is a certified B Corp that goes to great lengths to make sure their entire supply chain, from the growing and harvesting of the organic cotton to the final sewing and all the processes in between, are as clean and responsible as possible. Their super soft tees, dresses and underwear are 100% non-GMO cotton.

Alternative Apparel

Alternative respects and values the rights of workers in all countries and makes over 70% of their garments with sustainable materials and processes. Alternative is a certified Green Business.

Groceries Apparel; EILEEN FISHER; Outdoor Voices; Fair Indigo