



It's our responsibility to help conserve our natural resources and protect the environment. Metz & Associates pledges to do our part to be environmental stewards of our resources. We are committed to working closely with our client partners and vendors when executing initiatives to become more environmentally responsible. We are also focusing on educating and training our employees in environmentally friendly practices for work and home.

Metz & Associates will continue to explore new ideas, products, resources and programs that will help us, our clients and our guests meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Position on Organic Products

Currently Metz & Associates uses organic products where client interest and consumer demand are able to support the additional associated costs. We are introducing more organic and naturally grown and raised foods daily. We are happy to continue to work with our clients who are interested in offering organic products and a fuller program. We are aware of the increased cost associated with purchasing and serving organic products so we are constantly seeking cost effective items for our clients.

Food items that are labeled organic must meet the following guidelines:

100% Organic - Product must contain 100% organic ingredients.

Organic - At least 95% of ingredients are organically produced

Made with Organic Ingredients - At least 70% of ingredients are organic. Remaining 30% must come from the USDA's approved list.

To be labeled organic, animal products cannot be treated with any antibiotics or growth hormones. They cannot ingest feed containing animal by products. The animals must have access to the outdoors and fed organic feed for at least one year.

Produce items must not be contaminated with synthetic chemicals, such as those used in pesticides. Fertilizer should not contain any synthetic ingredients.

Position with Fair Trade

Metz & Associates supplies upon request, Fair-Trade certified products and encourages the purchase of such products. We will continue to educate and provide out interested clients with additional Fair Trade product information.

The Fair Trade principles are:

Fair Price – democratically organized farm groups get a guaranteed minimum floor price and additional premium for certified organic products. Farmer organizations are eligible for pre-harvest credit.

Fair Labor Conditions – workers on Fair Trade farms have freedom of association, safe conditions and a living wage. Child labor is prohibited.

Direct Trade – importers purchase directly from Fair Trade groups empowering the farmers to compete in the world marketplace.

Democratic and Transparent Organizations - Fair Trade farmers and workers decide how to invest Fair Trade revenues.

Community Development – the Fair Trade farmers and workers invest the Fair Trade premiums into programs that improve their lives and the lives of their children.

Environmental Sustainability – environmentally sustainable farming methods are used that protect the health and preserve the ecosystems.

Partnership with Local State Department of Agriculture to promote the use of local grown and processed products.

To reinforce our commitment to supporting local business, Metz & Associates has formed a partnership with state agencies to showcase and promote products that have been grown in the state, processed in the state, and/or manufactured in the state. By promoting state products we are demonstrating economically sound and socially responsible actions. Currently we are closely associated with such organizations in three states and will continue to investigate additional organizations in states in which operate business.

Position on Recycling

Metz & Associates has implemented recycling programs (including cardboard, plastics & paper) at units that are able to participate. The use of recycled napkins and biodegradable trash bags are available to all Metz & Associates accounts. We will continue to look for new products and resources that can be recycled.

Recycling of food waste or composting is a familiar process to many and is instituted at our accounts that have the desire and the facilities to accommodate. Composting is the

decomposition of organic items, such as food and waste. Waste products that can be used coffee grounds, waste from food preparation, or plate waste. This waste, when properly disposed of, turns into new soil or humus that can be used in many different ways. The benefits of composting are many, especially reducing the need for fertilizers and pesticides, while giving back to the soil necessary nutrients that are needed for growth.

Position on the Purchase and Use of Chemicals

Metz & Associates and our vendors work together in selecting quality, environmentally preferable chemicals. The products that are selected have minimal impact on the environment but still offer high quality performance. We purchase and use products and services that minimize water and energy use through new packaging and dispensing methods.

Position with Cage Free Eggs

Metz & Associates, as requested, will purchase cage-free eggs that carry the “Certified Humane” label.

The USDA defines cage-free as: the hens are not kept in cages. The Certified Humane Raised & Handled Label is a label that certifies that the product has been produced with the welfare of the animal in mind. As requested, Metz & Associates will purchase those eggs that are cage-free and have the Certified Humane Label.

Position on rBST(Recombinant bovine somatotropin hormone)

We purchase rBST free milk where it is available in our marketplace. We will continue to work with other suppliers to ensure we use and offer the best available products.

rBST is a genetically engineered copy of a naturally occurring hormone that is given to boost the amount of milk the cows will produce, shown by various testing. The FDA has reported that there is no significant difference between milk from rBST treated and untreated cows. However, to err on the side of safety, Metz & Associates will make every effort to support only those local dairies that do not use rBST with their cows.

Position on Animal Cloning

Metz & Associates will not purchase products derived from cloned animals or their offspring.

Positions on Irradiated Foods

Metz & Associates will not purchase or serve products that have been irradiated.

Position on Antibiotic/Hormones given to Animal

Metz & Associates, when requested, will purchase animal products that are produced with reduced amounts of antibiotics and hormones.

Most of the antibiotics that are used with animals are given for “nontherapeutic” reasons. It is believed that the animals will grow faster and will be healthier even though they are living in crowded and often unsanitary conditions. Metz & Associates believes that antibiotics should be used when needed for the welfare of the animal but not used for growth enhancement.

Position with Vegetable Oil Fuel Systems and Biodiesel fuels

We have partnered with local companies that remove used frying oils from the units. This oil is then used in engines that have an auxiliary fuel system to operate on straight vegetable oil, an alternative to diesel fuel. The fuel can then be used in any diesel engine which lowers the EPA registered emissions of carbon monoxide, soot, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide and carcinogenic hydrocarbons.

Metz & Associates is committed to staying at the leading edge of green initiatives and sustainability within our industry and our lives. We are working to be the environmental stewards of our environment. Metz & Associates will continue to be leaders in reducing our carbon footprint.

References

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