

13 Questions To Ask Before You Design, Specify or Buy Anything

1. Do you need it?
2. Can you live without it?
3. Can you borrow, rent or get it used?
4. Is the project designed to minimize waste?
5. Can it be smaller, lighter or made from fewer materials.
6. Is it designed to be durable or multi-functional?
7. Does it use renewable resources?
8. Is re-use practical and encouraged?
9. Are the product & packaging refillable, recyclable or repairable.
10. Is it made with post-consumer recycled or reclaimed materials and how much?
11. Is it available in a less toxic form?
12. Is it available from a socially and environmentally responsible company?
13. Is it made, or is it available, locally?

Make an Immediate Difference

- Encourage carpooling.
 - Offer incentives
- Offer 4 day work week.
 - Save gas
- Stop Junk Mail: visit www.catalogchoice.org
- On-line communication
 - Email, blog, etc.
- Replace appliances with Energy Star efficient models.
- Recycle CLEAN aluminum foil from hair color services.
- Place recycling bins in lunch room.
- Install light sensors, automatic water faucets and automatic paper towel dispensers.
- Offer on-site purified water not bottled water.
- Reuse cornstarch packaging materials (peanuts) as toe spacers in pedicures.
- Use Pivot Point "Snap Cap" mannequin head for classes.
- Eliminate plastic shopping bags.
 - Encourage use of reusable bags.

