

What is Fair Trade?

Fair Trade is a competitive business model that takes into account social values often disregarded in developing regions by conventional businesses. Fair Trade businesses commit to the following principles and practices:

- Paying a fair wage in the local context and offering employees opportunities for advancement
- Providing equal opportunities for all people, particularly the most disadvantaged
- Being open to public accountability
- Building long-term trade relationships
- Providing healthy and safe working conditions within the local context
- Providing financial and technical assistance to producers whenever possible

What type of Fair Trade products can I buy in the United States?

There are a large number of Fair Trade craft products – decorative home accessories, jewelry, baskets, musical instruments, textiles, flowers and sports balls. Fairly traded coffee, tea & chocolate are also widely available in shops and supermarkets around the country. Other Fair Trade products can include flowers, fresh fruit, cotton, sugar, honey, rice, spices, and herbs.

How do I know that a product is Fair Trade?



Some Fair Trade products, like coffee and chocolate, are Fair Trade Certified™ and carry a distinctive label or "seal." For other products, like handicrafts, there is not a certification system. Trans Fair USA (<http://www.transfairusa.org/>) is the Fair Trade certifying organization for the United States.

What Can I do to support Fair Trade products?

Most importantly you can purchase Fair Trade certified products for your own personal use or for use by your business or workplace. Ask grocers and restaurants that you patronize whether they carry Fair Trade certified products. If they do not, ask them why not.

What is Fair Trade Teaneck?

Fair Trade Teaneck (<http://fairtradeteaneck.org/>) is a coalition of business owners and citizens committed to helping Teaneck, NJ become a fair trade town.

