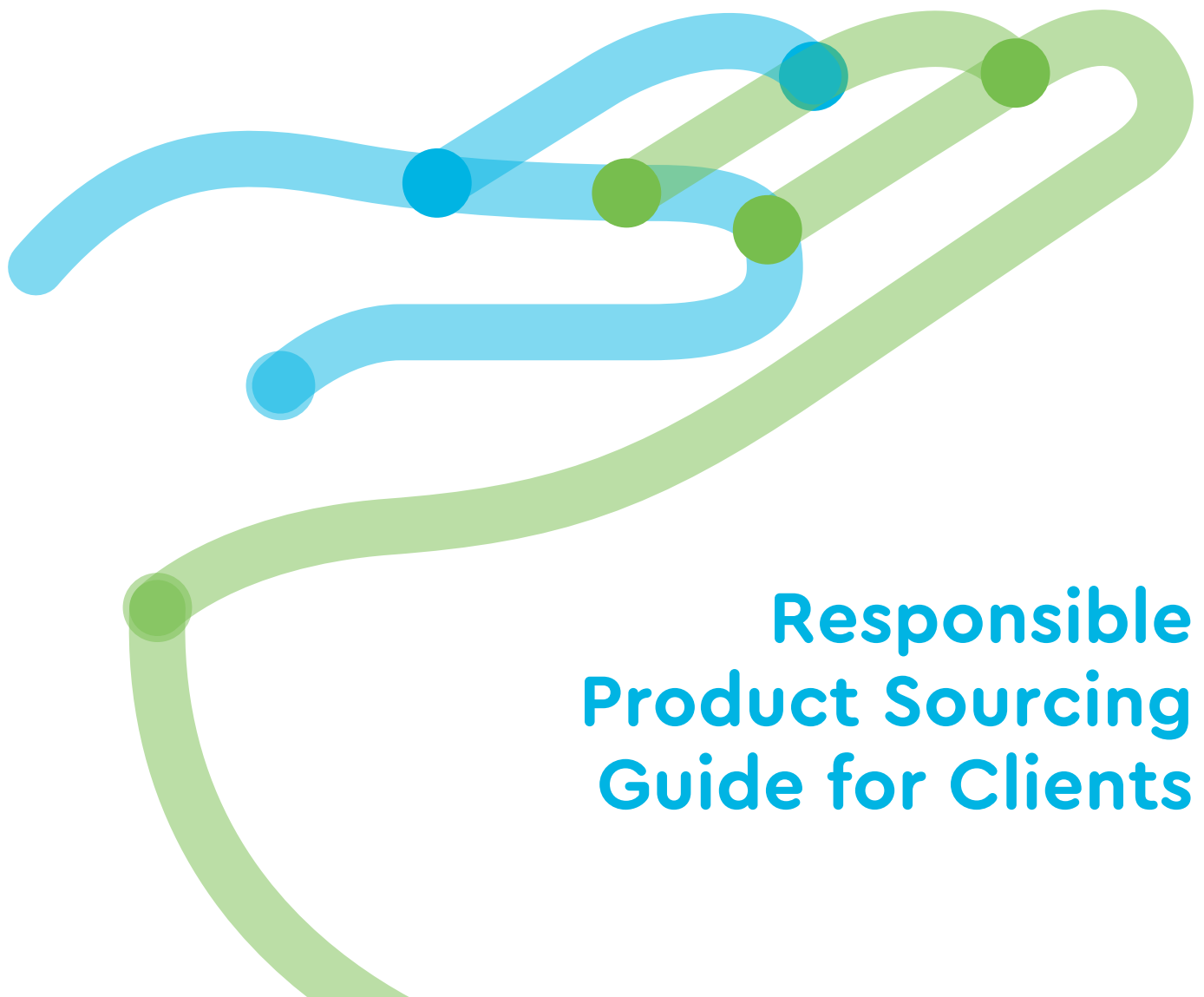
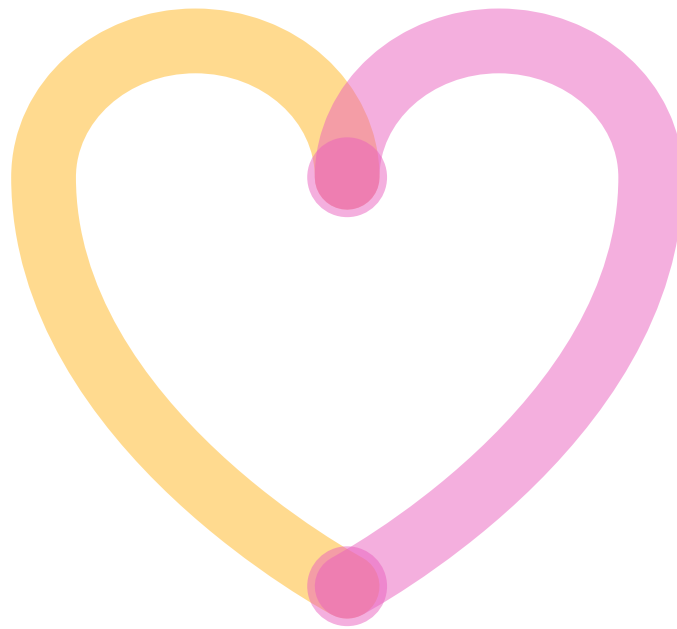




Responsible Product Sourcing Guide for Clients

Responsible Product Sourcing Guide for Clients

When looking for a sustainable product, it can be difficult to know what you are after as sustainability has many different meanings.

It is also important to note that when buying products of this nature, it is not possible to be 100% sustainable, as to be so would mean to replace all the resources used in making a product. Therefore, it is good to refer to these products as responsible rather than sustainable.

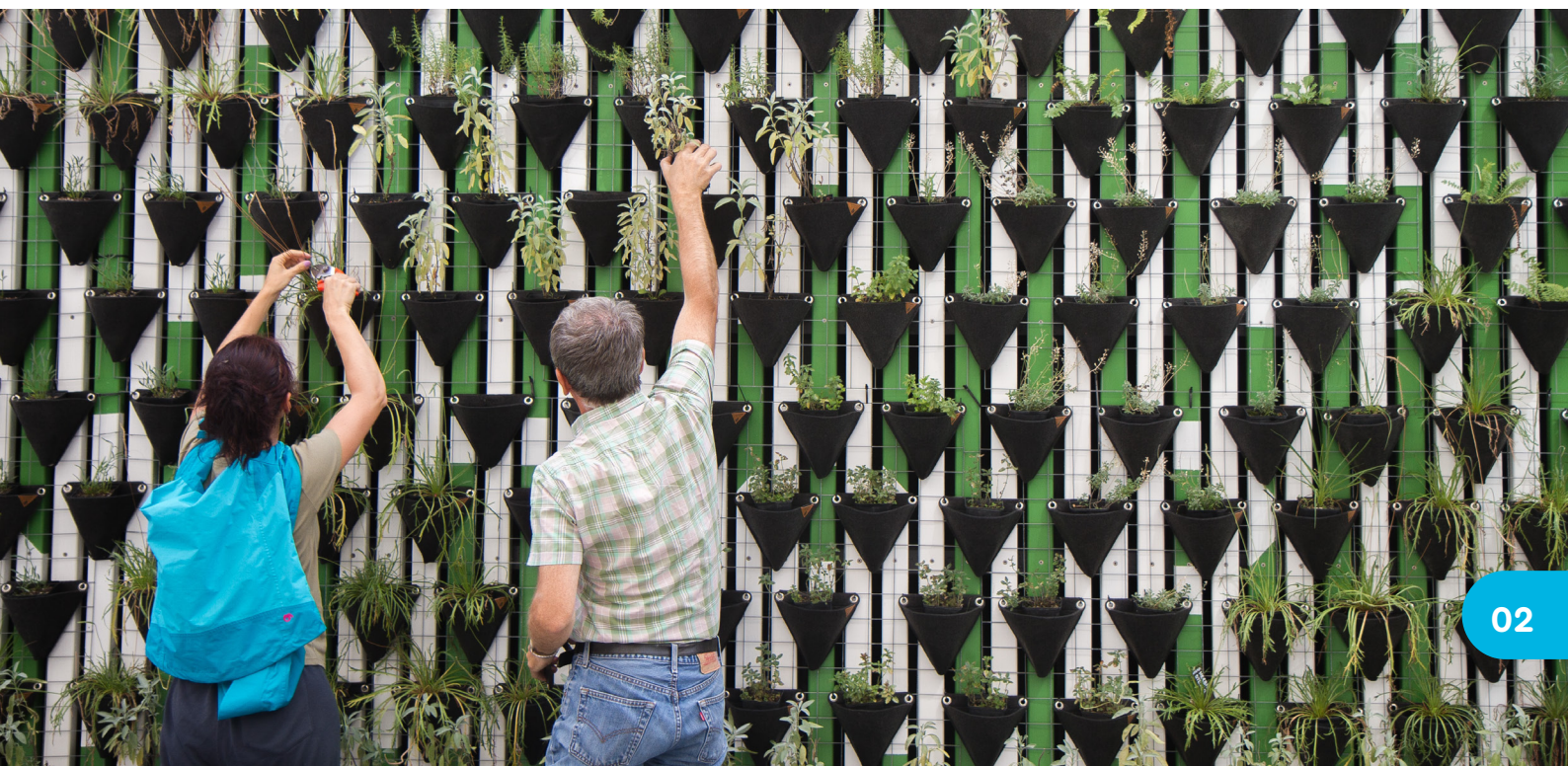
Therefore, this guide has been created to help you navigate what suits your needs and values the best.

It starts with helping you consider what the product is made of, how it can be packed, transported, cared for, or disposed of, and what certification the product has. As usual, our expert sales team are on hand to help answer your sustainability questions.

Unfortunately, supply chains are notably complex and opaque, so it can be very difficult for even the most well-intentioned charity to have complete transparency into how, where and by whom their merchandise is made.

However, there are steps you can take to proactively protect against unethical practices. One of the best ways to start is by establishing clear ethical purchasing guidelines and getting to know your suppliers. By developing your own ethical credentials and sharing them with suppliers, you can begin to influence from where and how your products are sourced. Also take the time to ask your suppliers about their own social accountability.

A reputable supplier will already have established ethical sourcing policies and practices in place, as well as network of fully audited factories.



Material



Check out our alternative materials guide for more detail on some of these materials.



Can the material be recycled?

- For our metal products, consider zinc alloy with no enamel instead of iron as this can be recycled.
- For our cardboard products chose unlaminated options as this is recyclable.
- Ensure that any recyclable products have certification for this.



Has the material been recycled?

- Any product that has been made from another product is helping to close the loop to create a circular system and will therefore have a lower environmental impact.
- Look out for rPET (recycled polyester) for clothing, bags, wristbands and lanyards.
- Recycled cotton is now available for some of our tote bags.
- Ensure anything claiming to be recycled has certification that it is.
- Ask our sales team about tracking technology – this can be used to identify what products the recycled material has been made from.



Look at organic cotton rather than regular cotton

- This is made without harmful chemicals.
- Ensure your organic cotton is certified.



Is the material made of cellulose-based fibres?

- These are products that derive from plants, and therefore can be naturally replaced and require no fossil fuels to create.
- The products we sell made of these contain cotton, wheat, straw, corn, wood, wood fibre, acetate (cellulose based), cork, jute, and coffee, so look out for these, or ask our sales team for products that are made of these.
- Bamboo is a more sustainable source of wood as it grows much faster than any other wood, making it easy to replace. Make sure your bamboo product is made of sustainably sourced bamboo and has certification for this. Ask our sales team for more info.



Water based inks

- These are inks that do not contain any chemicals and are made using water and plant-based sources – ask for these when getting prices and ensure they are certified.



Choose a vegan leather

- However, this can be plastic based which is not great for the environment either, so look out for vegan leathers made from cellulose-based fibres.

Packaging

- If using polybags always choose our biodegradable ones or bags made from 100% recycled plastic.
- If possible, have your items bulk packed – as this uses less packaging, this could be into big biodegradable plastic bags or paper bags.
- Have the items individually wrapped in tissue paper.

Transport

- If you have the time, chose to send your products via sea freight.
- Look at our alternative UK made products.
- Ask about offsetting your freight.

Disposability and Care

- Consider if the product can be recycled
- Consider if the product can biodegrade or be composted?
- How long will the product last for/how durable is it?
- How can the product be cared for? Check out responsible care guides for our sports and cotton clothing focussing on minimal energy and no toxic chemicals.

Certification

- Ask our sales team for certification that your responsible product is responsible in the way described.



Responsible Product Sourcing Guide for Clients