

Dropshipping Sustainability Checklist

An e-commerce business that specializes in selling products that other companies ship on their behalf, or “dropship” inherits the carbon footprint of these companies and the companies they use to fulfill your orders. The following is a checklist that will enable you to research the effect your business has on the environment. We are always looking for other aspects to add to our list – email us with suggestions.

Your Business

- Recycle hardware at an appropriate recycling center. Check for local government-offered services.
- Consider donating current, valuable hardware that no longer meets your needs to local schools and libraries
- Migrate your record keeping from a filing cabinet to electronic.
- Set a yearly print limit on paper consumption
- Shred and recycle junk mail. Add organic matter to a compost pile.
- Contact catalog companies and other bulk mailers and ask to be removed from their mailing lists.
- Consider alternative energy sources where available.
- Perform as much business by phone or electronic means rather than traveling by gas-powered vehicles.
- Choose service suppliers that analyze and address minimizing their carbon footprint.

Your Services Suppliers

As a client, you will find that the service providers with whom you work in your business are interested in your feedback. By knowing their policies and business practices as they relate to the environment, you can directly influence and help these businesses reduce their carbon footprint.

- Review any environment and sustainability policies that your service providers make available.
- If not readily available through electronic means, contact the company and ask about their sustainability policy. Start the discussion.
- Consider selling products that are locally made.
- Consider selling products that are fair trade.
- Consider selling eco-friendly products.
- Know the distribution process of the dropshipper, including where they source the products from, where they are located, do they use distribution centers, and the shipping methods used.
- Consider minimizing the number of dropshippers you use on a given website to avoid a single order resulting in multiple shipments.
- Make yourself aware of how products are packaged. Look for companies that pride themselves in eco-friendly packaging. Your buyer will judge you on how your package arrives.