

Positive Products Policy



Schemata Workshop is committed to doing social good through the purchase and use of products and services that contribute to the betterment of people, communities, and the environment. These positive products and services, either directly for the user, or indirectly to others beyond the immediate user, contribute to beneficial outcomes and positively address societal concerns such as renewable energy, water services, public transportation, pollution and waste management, social and economic inequalities and injustices, discrimination, poverty and other social injustices, affordable housing, improvements in nutritional foods, health care and safety, advancements in education, animal welfare, promotion of the arts and sciences, and conservation and reclamation of the natural environment. Positive products also refers to the production, selling, and purchase of fair trade products and services that are environmentally-friendly, people-friendly, and animal-friendly. Corporately, in fulfillment of its mission, Schemata Workshop may be involved in any number of these positive products and services.

Schemata Workshop has a policy of purchasing and investing only in positive products and services so that it contributes constructively to the community. Schemata Workshop strives to purchase only positive products for its use and use positive services for its operations. Schemata Workshop believes it is important to purchase products with the entire life cycle of the product in mind. This belief means that Schemata Workshop is committed to positive life cycles from investment to design, manufacture, sale, use, reuse, and so on.

Schemata Workshop is concerned about the avoidance of the use of negative products as much as it is about the use of positive products and services, and it is not involved in any activities, services, or businesses that support, or are involved in these activities. Schemata Workshop is an Architecture practice, and, as such, is not involved in the manufacture, provision, purchase, or use of products and services such as armaments and firearms, alcohol, tobacco, narcotics and other illicit drugs, gambling, pornography, prostitution, payday lending, organized crime, clear-cut logging, genetically-modified foods or patenting life, fossil fuel extraction and refining, known or suspected carcinogens, strives to avoid LBC red list materials and chemicals, the nuclear industry, and non-nutritional “junk” foods and beverages. Schemata Workshop prohibits the use of its financial and human resources for the manufacture, provision, purchase, or use of the above listed products and services.

Screening and Selection Criteria

Schemata Workshop screens all of its potential corporate involvements, purchases, and uses of products and services against its prohibited list (identified above) to ensure that there is no selection of banned involvement.

Cleaning Products

Biodegradable, organic, and/or eco-friendly hand soap, dish soap, dishwashing detergent, and surface cleaners are available to employees for practical, every day use. Our cleaning service uses these same products when servicing our office space.

Office Supplies

Schemata Workshop endeavors to incorporate post-recycled paper products into its printing and document reproduction needs. The studio advocates choosing “green” products when deciding on office supplies and typically accepts a price increase in favoring “green” products.

Every day printer and copy paper purchased by the studio is made from 100% post-consumer recycled material.

Facial tissue, paper towels, and toilet paper purchased by the studio are made from 100% recycled materials, with an emphasis on purchasing products with high percentages of post-consumer recycled material. Cloth dish and hand towels are made available in the kitchen and restroom to reduce paper waste.

All ink and toner cartridges are locally recycled for reuse.

Meetings and Catering

To reduce waste, reusable, washable dishes, glasses, mugs, flatware, serving dishes, and serving utensils are available for employee use during meals or meetings. All food products purchased by Schemata Workshop for use within the office, such as coffee, tea, sugar, and cream, are primarily organic and/or locally produced. For in-house meetings and celebrations, Schemata prefers the use of products and services produced by locally-owned and operated, small companies.

Composting and Recycling Services

Schemata Workshop provides mixed recycling, garbage, and compost bins for office cleaning and disposal. All appropriate signage is used to ensure waste is disposed of in the proper receptacle and in accordance with city policy.

Transportation

Schemata Workshop encourages employees to use alternatives to individual cars for commuting to the office. These methods include biking, walking, or using public transit. To encourage the use of public transit, the studio provides each full-time employee with an ORCA transit card. The cost of these cards is covered in full by Schemata Workshop, thereby giving employees the means by which to utilize public transit in their commute to the office. A private shower and restroom are available to employees in order to make walking or biking viable options. Schemata Workshop encourages its employees to participate in Seattle’s May Bike to Work Month. Ample bike storage is available on the premises.

To reduce the need for individual cars, employees have access to a studio-owned car for business-related purposes. Additionally, Schemata Workshop participates in Car2Go and Zipcar’s car-sharing program, and maintains a corporate Uber account, all of which provide employees with car access for meetings, errands, or site visits where biking or walking are not practical.