



## Ethical Policies

- ✓ Our business is founded on ethical principles. We are a green bag company, not a bag company with an eco friendly product line.
- ✓ By changing the culture of our society towards disposable plastic bags, we are taking the first steps towards encouraging an environmentally responsible attitude to all issues of excess packaging and waste and protecting our environment for future generations.
- ✓ The social contract we have with our clients carries right on through to their customers. We work with them to ensure that they can present their green message in a cost effective way.
- ✓ We apply our ethical principles at all stages of production and distribution of our bags, from personally inspecting our factory to shipping our bags and sales support to our customers.
- ✓ We have specifically chosen to produce our bags from NWPP as we are concerned about the environmental, social and political impact of diverting resources from food crops to bag crops in vulnerable areas of the world.

### Specifically:

- We are **working with our clients** to help bring about a behavioural change away from our disposable culture, to create a more sustainable future.
- Our **focus is on re-use and recycle**, and not on biodegradable. If people think something will degrade, they are still more inclined to dispose of it.
- We will offer **advice and guidance** to groups, schools, voluntary organisations and towns looking to go “plastic bag free”. This will be offered in good faith and we will supply all the relevant information based on our market knowledge, including information on all the alternative products available.
- Our bags are manufactured in China, in a factory run as a co-operative, with no employees aged under 16 years old. The principles we have employed in selecting this factory will be employed in all future supplier relationships, namely:
  - We develop **long-term relationships** with producers based on mutual respect and understanding.
  - By **regularly visiting our producers** we are able to ensure that production methods and working practices remain sound
  - Many Chinese agents use a large no. of sub contracted factories to fulfill orders – with no assurances over the ethical qualities of those sub contractors. We will continue to **deal directly with our own suppliers** rather than use third party agents to protect our integrity.
  - All suppliers must conduct their business in an **open, moral** and **equitable** manner.
  - They must **remunerate** their employees at a fair market rate in accordance with their responsibilities and abilities.
  - The use of any **child labour** is unacceptable. All labour in our factory is, and in the future will be, aged 16 years or over.

- Safe, decent and hygienic **working conditions** must be provided for all employees and none will be subjected to dangerous working practices.
- **Working hours** must be reasonable and appropriate breaks given. Wages and benefits must be fully comparable with local norms, complying with all local laws and the general principle of fair dealing.
- Our bags are shipped to the UK in bulk containers. This form of transport has one of the lowest levels of carbon emissions per tonne kilometer (approximately 7gms of CO<sub>2</sub>/tonne/km compared to approximately 800gms of CO<sub>2</sub>/tonne/km for air freight). We encourage our customers to take the most environmental route, even if it takes a little bit longer.

We will continuously review and amend our policies as our business develops, at all times maintaining our ethical principles throughout our organisation.