



The Art of Sustainable Living: based on the principles of One Planet Living

1. EQUITY and FAIRTRADE: film script

Welcome to the Art of Sustainable Living, with Melanie Rees of the Green Centre

This month we are looking at the third of the One Planet Living principles and the second in the **AND** group: that's **EQUITY and FAIRTRADE**.

According to Bioregional, the organisation who invented One Planet Living, the challenge we face as a global community is that some people in the industrialised world live in relative poverty, while many in the developing world cannot meet their basic needs from what they produce or sell.

To address this challenge, we must promote diversity and equality of opportunity across all abilities, gender, race, age, and sexual orientation. We must create a vibrant and resilient economy where a considerable proportion of money is spent locally and promote international trade that is conducted fairly and without exploitation.

This is a complex and broad topic yet if you unpick all the different strands, for us, the word which springs to mind is RESPECT. Respect for the global human family. Respect for our home, Planet Earth.

An easy and obvious starting place in supporting this principle is Fairtrade. Make sure your daily cuppa, whether tea or coffee, carries the Fairtrade mark. Don't forget the sugar. The extra expense means that someone, somewhere is being treated fairly as they toil to grow the ingredients of your cappuccino. You can build on this by observing Fairtrade Fortnight and learn about better prices, safe working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers.

As citizens of one of the richest countries in the world, we have found all of our work in this category lies overseas, particularly Africa where we collaborate directly with communities in Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, and Gambia. At the heart of these projects is support for education, particularly for girls, and employment skills for all. The world needs a system where everyone has an equal opportunity to free education, to acquire employment skills and secure high-quality jobs which support a green economy and at the very least finance their basic needs instead of the current model where the top 10% of adults hold 85% of the world's total wealth, while the bottom 90% hold the remaining 15%.

We need to balance, planet, people and prosperity and build a society, an economy and a world that puts people and planet at its heart.

You can find out more about the Green Centre's **EQUITY and FAIRTRADE** journey on our website along with a FACT SHEET to help you map out your own bespoke adventure.

Let us act together, to make truly sustainable living a reality. Welcome to the Art of Sustainable Living.

440 words