

Simple Sustainable Steps for your congregation:

- **Buy and Serve Fair Trade Coffee:** Fellowship time in many congregations is accompanied by the serving of coffee.
 - Assure the coffee bought and served in your faith community is Certified Fair Trade.
 - Post signs letting everyone know your church's commitment to serving Fair Trade coffee.
- **Sell Fair Trade Coffee:** Be sure Fair Trade Coffee is easily available to your congregation by selling it, possibly for fund raising.
- **Educate your Congregation:**
 - Write newsletter articles
 - Offer classes and lectures
 - Organize a teach-inPeter Stauffacher, manager of the KC Organics and Natural Market (a local farmers market), is a champion of small coffee producers' rights, as well as a tireless promoter of the economic and ecological benefits of Fair Trade Coffee. He is willing to lead educational classes for congregations and can be reached at 816-444-FOOD (3663) or www.kcorganics.com.
- **Organize a Fair Trade Campaign:** Lobby at your
 - campus,
 - workplace,
 - place of worship,
 - community group, and/or
 - in the legislatureto require the use of Fair Trade Coffee in the community. To find action tools, sample restrictions, and success stories, go to www.globalexchange.org/coffee.

Why Do We Care?

Buying Certified Fair Trade Coffee is a simple way of promoting fairness around the world.

Millions of coffee farmers in developing countries depend on their harvests to provide for their families, but face poverty and starvation.

Inequitably low coffee prices have caused:

- Tens of thousands of Mexican and El Salvadoran farmers to flee their fields in search of wages to feed their families.
- El Salvador to acknowledge that over 30,000 jobs have been destroyed due to slumping prices.
- Many of the 60,000 farmers in Nicaragua to lose their land because of mass indebtedness.
- Colombian farmers to uproot their crops in favor of coca and opium poppies, since they cannot survive by cultivating coffee.

A fair trade system corrects these imbalances, guarantees a livable price for the harvests of small farmers, and encourages sustainable cultivation methods. This enables farmers to put food on the table and shoes on their feet, and to invest in their families' health care and education.

3/07



Fair Trade Coffee

Simple Sustainable Actions for Fair Trade & Shade-Grown Organic Coffee



Our mission is to encourage sustainable living initiatives in faith communities.

For more information, contact:
info@sustainablesanctuary.org
or Jerry at 913-568-4250
www.sustainablesanctuary.org

Distributors of Fair Trade Coffee

Many local retail establishments sell Fair Trade Coffee. Other sources:

KC Organics and Natural Foods Market at Minor Park (Southeast corner of the intersection of Holmes and Red Bridge Roads Kansas City, MO (approx. one mile south of I-435), **Saturdays, 8am to 12:30pm, May - October**. Visit the website for special events: www.kcorganics.com or call 816-444-FOOD.

Equal Exchange Interfaith Coffee Project partners with eight denominations. You may order by mail, fax, or web. See www.equalexchange.org for more information.



Advocate for Fair Trade Coffee

Next time you notice that your favorite grocery store or café doesn't offer Fair Trade Coffee, write a letter using the example below as a guide:

Dear Café/Grocery Store Manager:

As a consumer, I am concerned about the social and environmental impacts of my choices. I enjoy shopping in your store and would encourage you to carry Fair Trade Coffee.

Many farmers receive market payments that are lower than the average costs of production, forcing them into poverty and debt. Intensive, industrialized coffee farming is associated with pesticide pollution and deforestation.

"Fair Trade" products correct these imbalances by providing a livable wage for small producers, and encourage the pesticide-free cultivation of coffee. With the profits generated from receiving Fair-Trade prices, coffee growers can invest in health, education, and environmental protection.

For these reasons, I prefer Fair Trade Coffee. Can I count on you to stock it? Thank you.

Fair Trade Coffee Case Study

Chiapas, Mexico:

Chiapas is located on the southern border of Mexico near the border to Guatemala. Foreign interests in petroleum, uranium, coffee, hydroelectric energy and other natural resources, have led to conflict in the region. Chiapas is the world's fifth largest coffee exporter. According to Peter Stauffacher of Kansas City, Missouri, hundreds of people have been killed over the last 10 years due to the conflict.

Stauffacher reports that the Mexican government and media misleadingly portrayed this conflict as infighting among the state's indigenous villages. In fact, conflicts are more likely to occur between government-supported international corporate interests and indigenous farmers.

To bring the injustices in Chiapas to light, Stauffacher created the Chiapas Justice Project. This initiative includes slide and video presentations to inform people about the Chiapas situation. Also, he sells coffee grown in the region, and gives \$1 for every bag sold to relief for refugees. To schedule a presentation, call 816-444-FOOD (3663).



The Amazing Rainforest

Growing coffee in the shade is a sustainable and renewable practice that can help preserve the rainforest.

Tropical rainforests exist in a belt around the equator. Covering over 2% of the earth's surface, they provide habitat and nutritional support for almost *half* of the world's known species. Amazing!

Rainforests, described as the "Lungs of the Planet," continuously recycle carbon dioxide into oxygen for the world environment. The Amazon Rainforest produces more than 20% of the world's oxygen.

Currently, the world's tropical rainforests are being destroyed at a rate of 35 to 50 million acres per year, in order to use the land for industrial farming. If this keeps up, the last remaining rainforests will be destroyed in less than 40 years.

When cleared for planting, rainforest topsoil is only a couple of inches deep and is repeatedly washed away by heavy rainfall. Left undisturbed, a thick layer of topsoil, rich in nutrients and energy, accumulates as a result of decomposition of dead animals and plants by mushrooms, lichens, moss, fungi, and bacteria.

If we use sustainable, shade-grown coffee, farmers preserve the rainforest and create a new source of income from medicinal plants, fruits, and nuts. Research shows that the rainforest is worth much more when left intact.



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