





































# Gift Selection Guidance

	Best	Better	Good	Avoid
Types	 Experiential	 Consumable	 Highly functional item; reputable brand	 Tchotchke/collectible, non functional item
If you choose a physical item, please use the recommendations below. Consider an opt-in policy when possible.				
Production	 Locally made; manufacturer has end-of-life plan; carbon offsets for manufacturing	 Made in USA		 Made and sold from other countries
Packaging	 No packaging	 Minimal or reusable packaging, non individually wrapped bulk packaging	 Water-soluble plant-derived packaging and/or recycled, biodegradable, recyclable	 Heavy packaging, refrigerant packaging, plastic/styrofoam, plastic cling wrap
Materials	 Metal; bamboo	 FSC wood; recycled glass	 Recycled plastic; ceramics	 Virgin plastic
Electronics	 Replaceable/repairable parts; reputable brand; long-lasting	 <b>Please recognize that electronics regularly evolve and become obsolete quickly. Please be considerate about your technology purchases with this in mind.</b>		
Apparel	 Regenerative, organic, ethically sourced, repurposed materials; non company logo'ed	 Reputable brand	 Recycled materials	 Virgin materials
Shipping	 Digital (no shipping)	 Carbon-offset shipping	 <b>In person meetings:</b> Shipped to single location for distribution <b>Virtual meetings:</b> Shipped directly to individual attendees	 Overnight and expedited shipping
Ownership	 BIPOC-owned, Women-owned, Run by or supports underserved individuals*	 Local, Small business	 USA Business	 International Business
Not sure where to start? Check your vendors for any of these certifications and business practices.				
Certifications / Business Practices	     of B or higher  			Circular & take-back initiatives, Fair labor standards, Ethical supply chain, Charitable initiatives

\*At least 51% owned and operated by underrepresented or underserved individuals

# Definitions

- Consumable:
  - A commodity that is intended to be used up relatively quickly. (eg. food, wine)
- Experiential:
  - An experience instead of a physical item. (eg. museum tickets, audible subscription)
- Highly Functional:
  - Designed to be practical and useful, rather than solely decorative.
- Ethical Supply Chain:
  - Focuses on the need for corporate social responsibility, working to produce products and services in a way that treats its workers and the environment ethically.
- Local:
  - Within your state
- Regenerative
  - Made from materials responsibly grown and processed so as to maintain soil fertility and ecosystem health (eg. cotton, bamboo)
- Virgin plastic
  - The direct resin produced from a petrochemical feedstock, such as natural gas or crude oil, which has never been used or processed before.

# Definitions

- Recycled plastic:
  - The process of recovering scrap or waste plastics and reprocessing the material into useful products.
- Up-cycling vs down-cycling of materials:
  - Up-cycling: reuse (discarded objects or material) in such a way as to create a product of higher quality or value than the original. Eg. plastic water bottle → Rothy shoes or apparel
  - Down-cycling: To recycle (something) in such a way that the resulting product is of a lower value than the original item. Eg. plastic water bottle → plastic grocery bag
- Greenwashing:
  - The process of conveying a false impression or providing misleading information about how a company's products are more environmentally sound.
  - [\*Greenwashing: A Fiji Water Story\*](#) by Our Changing Climate
- BIPOC: Black, Indigenous and People of Color
  - <https://www.thebipocproject.org/>
- “FSC” Wood: Forest Stewardship Council certified
  - <https://fsc.org/en>
  - Eg. Think “fair trade” for lumber