Since its early beginnings in 2008, the ecumenical project “Zukunft Einkaufen – Buying for the Future” has developed into an established process standard in the area of ecologically and socially sustainable procurement within churches and their institutions. Acting as an information point and network facilitator, “Buying for the Future” promotes the purchase of sustainable products and services to, church institutions as well as to their care institutions, Caritas and Diakonie. 

In numerous projects, “Zukunft Einkaufen – Buying for the Future” has cooperated with decision-makers and staff of these institutions to find individual, sustainable procurement solutions. These included ecological methods for laundry, canteen kitchens and catering, reduced waste production and improved resource efficiency, sustenance materials, and for the use of materials such as wood, paper and natural stone. The project also supported the establishment and coordination of purchasing cooperations of several institutions for higher cost efficiency. 

The overarching aim of the project is to enable the Protestant and Catholic churches in Germany, including their welfare and health care institutions, to use their value oriented purchasing power for fostering innovative products and markets, and to develop these according to global, ecological and social criteria. “Zukunft Einkaufen – Buying for the Future” offers a range of seminars, workshops, consulting services and media materials to multipliers and procurers. The services and materials are promoting a systematic procurement management system which can easily be implemented into company processes.

Claudia Mahneke
www.zukunft-einkauf.de
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