

# Fair Trade, Shade Grown, Organic coffee In Oxy's Marketplace!!!!

## Why drink Fair Trade coffee?

Intensive coffee farming can lead to pesticide pollution and deforestation.

Fair Trade **guarantees a minimum wage for small producers' harvests and by encouraging organic and sustainable cultivation methods.** Fair trade farmers are provided badly needed credit and assured a minimum of \$1.26 per pound. In comparison, the world price usually hovers around \$1 per pound, but most farmers earn less than 50 cents per pound since they are forced to sell to exploitative middlemen. With the profits generated from receiving fair wages, coffee growers can invest in health, education, and environmental protection. Taking a step to buy fair trade coffee supports rather than exploits coffee farmers.

(<http://www.fairtradefederation.com/memcof.html>)

## Why drink Shade Grown coffee?

In the mid-elevations of Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and Colombia, most of the forests still standing are in traditional coffee plantations. These provide the last refuge for birds that have lost their habitat to the vast destruction of tropical forests.

Coffee, a shade-loving shrub, flourishes under the canopy of diverse tree species.

Hummingbirds, swallows, warblers, orioles, tanagers and other native and migratory birds find a safe haven in the remaining forests of shade coffee plantations.

Scientists and birdwatchers have noticed a marked decline in migratory bird populations over the last 25 years. **The tree canopy in shade coffee plantations protects the soil from erosion and provides a natural mulch for coffee plants, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers and herbicides.**

(<http://www.seattleaudubon.org/shadecoffee/aboutsc/aboutsc.html>)

## Why drink Organic Coffee?

Organic agriculture **stimulates the development of biological pest management and safe methods of disease control; preserve and promote topsoil development,** a key factor in the prevention of erosion and desertification. Toxic and persistent chemicals are not added to the environment and are kept out of the water supply and food chain.

Ecosystem diversity is emphasized and farmers and workers are not exposed to dangerous chemicals.

(<http://www.uncommongrounds.net/sustainable-benefits/organic/>)

