**Bulk Buying Guidance**

Bulk buying refers to the purchase of multiple quantities of product in exchange for a lower price per unit.

Benefits:

* Buying efficiency
* Cheaper pricing
* Buying according to demand
* Discounts
* Recurring delivery
* Minimises environmental impact on packaging and transporting goods in bulk
* Increases buying power

Please watch the video link below as it provides a useful starting point:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQfnTxR9hKI>

**Checklist for setting up a community buying group:**

* What can we buy better as a group than we could as individuals (it would be cheaper or more convenient, or we could pool our knowledge about how to buy it)?
* Have we worked out if there are enough people to buy what we want to buy, and minimum price we can buy it for?
* Have we worked out what resources we need (do we need storage, admin, finance etc)?
* Have we considered how we can find these resources? Could we get things for free or low cost?
* Have we worked out what our costs will be?
* Have we found out what kind of advice and support may be available to help us?
* Have we found suppliers for what we want to buy from and got 3 quotes?
* Have we decided how we want the group to operate? Do we need to decide on formal roles and ways of working? Do we need a legal structure? (non-refundable deposit option etc) Do we need a bank account?
* How are we going to market and promote what we are doing?
* Have we investigated how the law might affect our group (especially if it’s running on lines that are more like a business)?
* What local venues can we use for storage and collection?
* What would we do with left over materials or items that are not collected?

**Useful Links:**

[Guide for Community Buying Groups (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/31881/12-593-guide-for-community-buying-groups.pdf)

<https://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/1853>

[Bulk buy schemes: community discounts for energy efficiency | Centre for Sustainable Energy (cse.org.uk)](https://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/1853)