What is sustainable furniture anyway?
It is many things because sustainability is about using the resources available to us today in such a way that future generations also have the resources they need.

How do I know what is eco-friendly?
Consider these questions.

Q: WHERE DOES THE WOOD COME FROM THAT WAS USED IN THIS FURNITURE?
The most important consideration in wood procurement is to ensure that the wood was legally harvested from responsibly managed forests.

Q: IS THE WOOD THIRD-PARTY CERTIFIED?
Look for legitimate third-party certifications that have high standards and the ability to monitor performance. Some examples include Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and in North America, Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

Q: WHERE WAS THIS FURNITURE MANUFACTURED?
Transportation is the second major contributor to CO2 emissions. Look for furniture that was produced closest to where you live and uses raw materials sourced within a 500 mile radius of their manufacturing facilities. Buying local will cut emissions and support local economies.

Q: DOES THIS MANUFACTURER HAVE A SOCIAL EQUITY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THEIR PRODUCTION PROCESSES?
A Social Equity Code of Conduct provides assurance that workers are fairly treated, receive decent wages, and work in a safe environment. Every manufacturer should be able to produce a written code of conduct.

Q: WERE PAINTS OR FINISHES WITH HIGH VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOC’S) USED ON THIS PRODUCT?
VOC’s are harmful pollutants from finishes such as paints, varnishes and lacquers that are released during the manufacturing process and into your home. Water-based finishes are the best choice for low or no VOC’s.

How do I learn more?
Visit our exhibitors. Attend these SFC sponsored seminars.

Sunday, Jan 26
CRADLE-TO-CRADLE THINKING
What It Is, What it can do for You
1:00-2:00 pm | Building C, LVDC Seminar Room C444
Speakers:
Lori Dennis, Lori Dennis Designs
Lewis Perkins,
Craddle To Cradle Products Innovation Institute

Monday, Jan 27
FTC GREEN GUIDES
The Claims You Make
4:30 pm-6:00 pm | Building C, Seminar Room C174
The Specialty Sleep Association presents Attorney James Kohm, the Associate Director for the Enforcement Division of the Federal Trade Commission’s Bureau of Consumer Protection discussing the enforcement of the FTC “Green Guides” for manufacturers and retailers making “green” claims in their marketing and advertising, and educate furniture and mattress/bedding manufacturers on how to comply with the agency’s updated guidelines.