

**What you buy
(or don't buy)
is important!**



Buying Green Means Buying Less

You are making a difference at UNO now and for the future!

You've received surveys and educational/motivational messages about buying green (sustainable purchasing) over the academic year 2014-15. * Here are the results:

Office product purchasers at UNO are willing to **BUY GREEN!**

You're in good company:

- 82% of you believe sustainable purchasing should be an objective of UNO's sustainability policy.
- Cost savings and performance are critical criteria for making purchases.
- By gaining just a little more knowledge, 80% of you will "buy green."
- 62% of you would be likely to order office supplies no more than once per week.
- Even at a 15% premium, you feel recycled paper products are worth it.

Using less paper is the best thing you can do for the environment and the bottom line — but when you need paper, buy recycled-content paper.

In 2014-15, UNO spent \$39,290 on paper products and saved **\$2,908** over the previous year by purchasing less paper. We saved:

- **One** ton of wood (about three trees)
- **Three** million BTUs of energy (about a 60W light bulb burning for 147 hrs)
- **550** pounds greenhouse gas emissions (about 600 miles driven in a passenger car)
- **2,246** gallons of water (about 75 loads of laundry)
- **190** pounds of solid waste (about 43 days of typical personal generation)

But—compare UNO results to other participating institutions—UNO could do much more!

Savings During 2014–15 Research Project

	Money Saved	Wood (tons)	Energy (MMBTU)	GHG (MT)	Water (gallons)	Solid Waste (lbs)
UNO	\$2,908	1	3	0.3	2,246	190
Institution A	Not provided	15	98	7.8	73,737	5,947
Institution B	\$5,260	16	146	11.0	102,373	8,614
Institution C	\$16,846	55	491	38.3	343,146	28,884
Institution D	\$32,600	99	858	67.2	601,643	50,699

(continued on reverse)

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What are the barriers to sustainable purchasing at UNO? Leadership.

- 43% say they could use more knowledge about sustainable purchasing but it wouldn't really be beneficial to their job.
- 36% say sustainable purchasing is never brought up.
- 75% believe there is little or no chance of being rewarded for sustainable purchasing.

Sustainable Purchasing recommendations for UNO:

- 1** Purchase only 30% recycled content paper (eliminate the option to purchase virgin paper). This would save an additional:
 - 50 tons of wood,
 - 144 MBTU
 - 12.5 MT GHG
 - 149,597 gals water
 - 10,014 lbs solid waste
- 2** Reducing office product deliveries to one day per week—
 - saves greenhouse gas emissions. Deliveries of only one day instead of five days per week would save 0.8 MT of CO₂ emissions/yr.
 - encourages planning and inventory control – avoids waste.
- 3** Celebrate your success buying sustainable products! Communicate the value of SP throughout UNO, starting with upper administration.
- 4** Make "Buying Green" a priority for UNO and—
 - use less and buy only what you need.
 - buy durable or reusable products.
 - buy non-toxics.
 - buy recycled content.
 - always print double-sided (when you need to print).

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* We participated in a research project funded by EPA and conducted by the Nebraska Business Development Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Messages are archived at creighton.edu/about/sustainability/purchasing/