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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Money Saved</th>
<th>Wood (tons)</th>
<th>Energy (MMBTU)</th>
<th>GHG (MT)</th>
<th>Water (gallons)</th>
<th>Solid Waste (lbs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNO</td>
<td>$2,908</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>2,246</td>
<td>190</td>
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<td>Institution A</td>
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<td>146</td>
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<td>Institution D</td>
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<td>67.2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(continued on reverse)
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).

* 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/