



The [Advisory Council on Stewardship and Sustainability](#) (ACSS) and [University Purchasing](#) would like to share the results of its recent assessment of paper consumption on campus and to announce an exciting new purchasing initiative.

### **How much paper does Gonzaga currently use?**

In 2011 Gonzaga purchased 19,410 reams of white virgin paper at a cost of more than \$62,000. Ways of thinking about how much paper this is:

- 9,705,000 sheets
- 26,589 sheets each day
- 19,410 reams
- 1,941 cases
- 97,050 pounds
- 48.525 tons
- Placed end to end, it would stretch from Spokane to Chicago (1,684.89 miles)

Environmental impact of producing this paper:

- 1,255 trees\*
- 1,567 million BTUs of energy, the equivalent of about 17 homes/year\*
- 1,078,171 gallons of wastewater generated \*
- 292,256 pounds CO2 equiv, the equivalent of about 27 cars/year\*
- [Click here](#) for a full lifecycle environmental impact assessment.

### **Reduce & Reuse - What are we doing to reduce our paper consumption?**

Academia is often paper-intensive and will continue to be so for some time. However, the University is increasingly embracing opportunities to implement digital alternatives to paper which will, over time, reduce paper consumption. In addition, many faculty members are exploring new ways to reduce paper use in their classes. Given that these changes sometimes require modifications of longstanding habits, your support and patience is sincerely appreciated.

Tips for reducing paper consumption:

- Pause before you print. Is a hardcopy really needed or would a digital version do?
- Use print preview before printing to avoid errors.
- Provide a tray to collect and reuse one-sided paper. If you have a printer with two trays for paper, designate one for reused paper.
- Print back-to-back (duplex) whenever possible and appropriate.
- Use both sides of a piece of paper before recycling. Often times, notes can be taken on a piece of paper that is only printed on one side.

- Use the appropriate size paper for the job.
- Refrain from printing syllabi. Often times they change becoming inaccurate. With an on-line version on Blackboard, you're sure to have the most up-to-date copy.
- When appropriate, print 2 pages per sheet (combined with duplexing, this uses 75% less paper than a normal single-side print job).

## **Recycle - Using recycled content paper**

In keeping with Gonzaga's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability, President McCulloh approved new [Sustainable Purchasing and Design Policies](#). One of these policies included the transition to purchasing paper with a minimum of 25% post-consumer content recycled paper. Executive Vice President Martin has announced that, once we have used our current stock of virgin paper, all white printer paper will be 30% post-consumer content recycled paper. Why is this important? Recycling only works if consumers buy items made out of recycled materials. Buying paper with post-consumer content helps to create and expand markets for the paper that we ourselves want to recycle. At our current rate of consumption, this shift to recycled-content paper will have significant ecological advantages:

- save 376 trees\*
- use 153 million BTUs less energy, enough to power two homes for a year\*
- produce 38,247 pounds CO2 equiv. less, equivalent to taking 3 cars off the road\*
- use/produce 172,466 gallons less wastewater\*

Gonzaga is doing its part to reduce, reuse, and recycle. If everyone does their part, we can continue to reduce our ecological impact.

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[www.gonzaga.edu/sustainability/](http://www.gonzaga.edu/sustainability/)  
[www.gonzaga.edu/recycle/](http://www.gonzaga.edu/recycle/)

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\*Environmental impact estimates were made using the Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator. For more information visit [www.papercalculator.org](http://www.papercalculator.org). [Click here](#) for Gonzaga's full lifecycle environmental impact assessment.

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