

## 2012 ACSS Paper Report Card

Dear colleagues,

The [Advisory Council on Stewardship and Sustainability](#) (ACSS), [Faculty Services](#), and [University Purchasing](#) would like to share the results of its annual assessment of the environmental and financial costs of Gonzaga's paper consumption. In 2012, Gonzaga University students, faculty, and staff consumed 8,570,000 sheets of paper. Placed end-to-end lengthwise, this would stretch 1487 miles, from Spokane to Minneapolis, MN. Producing this paper comes at a significant cost, both financial and environmental:

- \$54,000
- 664 trees
- 1,160 million BTU's of energy, the equivalent of about 13 homes/yr
- 196,986 pounds of CO2 equivalent, the equivalent of about 18 cars/yr
- 770,746 gallons of water

In keeping with its [Sustainable Purchasing and Design Policies](#) and [Gonzaga's Climate Action Plan](#) in the University made the decision to shift its paper use from 100% virgin paper to at least 25% post-consumer content (PCC) recycled paper. Initially, it looked as though this would cost the University more money. Thanks to some very fine work by our colleagues in University Purchasing and Faculty Services, Gonzaga was able to make the shift to 30% post-consumer content recycled paper at a cost *lower* than what we were paying for the virgin content paper (see below).

Perhaps even more important is the fact that last year the Gonzaga community began to decrease its paper *consumption*. In 2012 Gonzaga students, faculty, and staff used 1,135,000 *fewer* sheets of paper than in 2011. Combined with the shift to 30% PCC recycled paper, Gonzaga significantly decreased the impact of its paper use. Specifically, the decrease in consumption and shift to 30% PCC recycled paper *saved* 591 trees, 307,425 gallons of water, 407 million BTUs of electricity, and a 32% reduction in CO2 (97,270 pounds less CO2 equivalent). This is equivalent to removing the annual emissions of 7.9 passenger vehicles or 4,905 gallons of gasoline.<sup>1</sup> Though we have more than just a financial bottom line, it is impressive that this was achieved while simultaneously reducing the financial cost by \$8000.

	2011*	2012*
<b>Sheets of paper</b>	9,705,000	8,570,000
<b>Reams of paper</b>	19,410	17,140
<b>% recycled content</b>	0%	30% or more
<b>Weight</b>	97,050 pds	87,700 pds
<b>Cost</b>	\$62,000	\$54,000 (13% cost savings)
<b>CO2e footprint</b>	292,256 pds	196,986 pds (32% reduction)
<b>Energy used in production</b>	1,567 million BTUs	1,160 million BTUs
<b>Trees used</b>	1,255	664
<b>Trees saved</b>	-	591
<b>If placed end-to-end longwise</b>	1684 miles	1487 miles
<b>Freshwater used</b>	1,078,171 gallons	770,746 gallons (28% reduction)

\*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 of our paper consumption.

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

### 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.
- When appropriate, print 2 pages per sheet (combined with duplexing, this uses 75% less paper than a normal single-side print job).
- Set your default page margins in MS Word to 1" or even .75" (the default in Word is often 1.25" for left and right margins)
- Use Blackboard to accept assignments digitally.

Brian Henning  
Co-Chair, Advisory Council on Stewardship and Sustainability  
[www.gonzaga.edu/sustainability/](http://www.gonzaga.edu/sustainability/)  
[www.gonzaga.edu/recycle/](http://www.gonzaga.edu/recycle/)

Steve Lunden  
Director, University Purchasing

Nancy Masingale  
Director, Faculty Services

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.carbonfootprint360.com/p/Greenhouse-Gas-Equivalencies-Calculator.html>