

2015 Paper Report Card

The Office of Sustainability, Campus Printing, 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 2015, Gonzaga students, faculty, and staff consumed 17,400 reams of paper. Put differently, this is approximately 8,700,000 sheets and roughly 731 trees. This many sheets placed end to end would span from Spokane to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, a distance longer than the 2012 endpoint (Minneapolis, MN) and shorter than the 2013 endpoint (Memphis, TN.) The cost of 17,400 reams of paper (87,000 pounds) on the environment is equivalent to:

- 731 trees
- 73,798 pounds of solid waste, the equivalent of about 3 garbage trucks full of waste
- 1,133 pounds of sulfur dioxide, or equivalent to the emissions of 206 18-wheelers a year
- 1,275 million BTU’s of energy, or the equivalent of 10 homes a year
- 216,660 pounds of CO₂ equivalent, or that of 20 cars per year.
- 847,723 gallons of water, or enough to fill a swimming pool with freshwater

Paper use decreased in 2015—the lowest number of sheets used since 2012. Using less also led to an almost 17% reduction in cost. This past year, we did not purchase any 100% recycled content paper. Using 100% recycled paper saves a significant number of trees, water, carbon dioxide, and energy.

Annual Comparisons:

	2011*	2012*	2013*	2014*	2015*
Sheets of Paper	9,705,000	8,570,000	9,510,000	9,125,000	8,700,000
Reams of Paper	19,410	17,140	19,020	18,250	17,400
% Recycled	0%	30% or more	30% or more	30%	30%
Weight	97050	85,700 pds	95,100 pds	91240 pds	87,000 pds
Cost	\$62,000	\$54,000 (13% cost savings)	\$63,776.38 (18% cost increase)	\$61,502.50 (3.6% reduction from 2013)	\$51,330.00 (16.5% reduction from 2014)
CO₂e footprint	292,256 pds	213,422 pds (32% reduction)	235,094 pds (10% increase from 2012)	227,219 pds (3.3% reduction from 2013)	216,660 pds (4.6% reduction from 2014)
Energy used in production	1567 mil. BTU's	1,256 mil. BTU's	1,385 million BTU's	1,337 million BTU's	1,275 million BTU's
Trees used	1,255	720	779	766	731
Trees saved	-	535	-59	13	35
Length if placed end-to-end	1684 miles	1487 miles	1651 miles	1584 miles	1510 miles
Freshwater used	1,078,171 gal	835,056 gal. (28% reduction)	917,226 gallons (9.8% increase from 2012)	889,037 gallons (3% reduction from 2013)	847,723 gallons (4.9% reduction from 2014)

*Environmental impact estimates were made using the Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator.

For more information visit www.papercalculator.org.