

## **CSUEB 100% Recycled Content Paper Procurement Policy**

CSUEB's 100% recycled content paper purchasing policy focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Purchasing decisions shall ensure:

1. All CSUEB 8 ½ x 11 copy/printer paper supplied by Duplication Services be 100% post-consumer recycled content.
  - a. Purchasing of this paper will be centralized through Duplication Services and associated costs will be the responsibility of Duplication Services.
  - b. Print/copy costs for students/faculty/staff will not increase due to this policy.
  - c. Staples Campus Marketplace will default to 100% recycled content paper and will not allow the purchase of other amounts of recycled content copy/print paper.
  - d. All campus entities will be encouraged to purchase copy/print paper through Duplication Services.

### **Background**

California State University East Bay became a signatory to the Carbon Commitment in January 2015 and adopted its Climate Action Plan (CAP) on April 30, 2018, establishing the University's commitment to achieving climate neutrality by the year 2040. The CSUEB Campus Sustainability Committee (CSC), formed in May 2015, supports the work to fulfill the Carbon Commitment and Climate Action Plan requirements through transparent decision-making and open discussion forums, and advises campus entities on issues related to environmental, economic, and social sustainability at CSUEB.

The CSC discusses strategies for streamlining campus purchasing to be more sustainable, focusing on the ultimate goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to purchasing. One of the strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to purchasing is increasing recycled content of printer/copier paper on campus.

The CSC procurement standards are established by the Carbon Commitment, AB 32 the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, and the CSU Sustainability Policy, which states in the Sustainable Procurement section:

"To move to zero waste, campuses practices should... increase recycled content purchases in all BuyRecycled program product categories." (6, CSU Sustainability Policy)

### **100% Recycled Content Paper**

CSUEB Duplication Services has tested 100% recycled 8 ½ x 11 paper in the RICOH centralized printers and no issues have been observed with machinery function.

An analysis of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE's) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) in August 2016 revealed that 18 institutions that completed a STARS Report stated their campus has a 100%

recycled paper purchasing policy related to copy/printer paper. In addition, Humboldt State University (HSU) has a 100% recycled content paper purchasing policy. HSU states that the university has adopted the policy because “it is the right thing to do” even if the cost of 100% recycled content is greater than lesser recycled content paper.

### **Benefits**

With the signing of the Carbon Commitment and the implementation of the Climate Action Plan, CSUEB must reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Increasing recycled content of paper purchased will support this effort.

According to the US EPA:

- It is better to save trees for use as lumber than to use them for paper.
- One ton of recycled paper saves 4,100 kW hours of electricity, enough to power the average home for six months.
- One ton of recycled paper saves 7,000 gallons of water that would otherwise be used to make virgin paper.
- Air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and other particulates used for virgin paper production are reduced by 60 pounds in producing one ton of recycled paper.
- Recycling paper reduces the emission of greenhouse gases such as methane, which is created when paper decomposes in the landfill.

According to Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator<sup>1</sup>, increasing the recycled content of print/copy paper from 30% to 100% has the following benefits:

- Uses 1,448 fewer pounds of CO2 equivalent
- Saves approximately 12,000 gallons of water
- Saves approximately 500 pounds of solid waste
- Saves 17 trees or three tons of wood

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<sup>1</sup> The Paper Calculator is based on research done by the Paper Task Force, a peer-reviewed study of the lifecycle environmental impacts of paper production and disposal. The underlying data in the Paper Calculator are updated regularly.