



CASE STUDY

Library - 100% Recycled Paper

SNAPSHOT

Who: Bender Library

What: Recycled Paper

Why: Protect forests and reduce waste

When: Spring 2012

RESOURCES

Paper: Boise® ASPEN
100% Recycled Office
Paper

Price: \$40.46/case



ACTIONS

DECISION

In March 2012, as one of the largest consumers of paper on campus, Bender Library decided to switch to 100% post-consumer recycled paper for all of its basic printing needs.

CONTINUE ONGOING EFFORTS

This was seen as a continuation of the library's commitment to sustainability. All public printers already print double-sided by default. Students are also encouraged to scan and send documents rather than copying them.

BUY BETTER

Bender Library uses AU's office supplies contract to purchase FSC Certified, Boise brand 100% Recycled Copy Paper.

OVERCOMING MISCONCEPTIONS

There was concerns over the impact recycled paper would have on the frequency of paper jams. To ensure paper jams would not increase, several pilot sessions were completed on different printers across the library. The switch was phased in, starting with the staff area printers and moving on to the public area printers.

BUDGET APPROVAL

The 100% PCW recycled paper costs an additional \$8.36 per box compared to the 30% PCW alternative. One box contains 5000 sheets of paper.

BENEFITS

SOCIAL

According to the Responsible Purchasing Trends survey, 93% of respondents said recycled content is important or very important in purchasing decisions. And copy paper was the number one product for which environmental attributes are considered during purchasing. By focusing on paper consumption, the Library is setting a highly visible example for staff and students alike, on an issue that people feel is important.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Using the Environmental Defense Fund's Paper Calculator, based on the use of 777 boxes (5000 sheets per box) of paper in the 2010-2011 academic year. The Library estimates the following savings per year from switching from 30% PCW paper to 100% PCW copy paper:

- 51 tons of wood
- 144 million BTUs of energy
- 35,724 lbs of greenhouse gas emissions
- 161,092 gallons of wastewater
- 10,212 pounds of solid waste

Additionally, the Boise paper is made without the use of chlorine or chlorine compounds, reducing the use of these chemicals and their presence in the environment.



Left
Energy Star rated
duplexing printers.



Right
FSC Certified, Boise
100% Recycled copy
paper.