

2014 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 2014, Gonzaga University students, faculty, and staff consumed 18,250 reams of paper. This number, quantified in terms of sheets is approximately 9,125,000 and roughly 766 when quantified into trees. This many sheets placed end to end would span from Spokane to just beyond Chicago, a distance longer than the 2012 endpoint (Minneapolis, MN) and shorter than 2013 endpoint (Memphis, TN.) Since 2011, the ACSS has been conducting paper audits to evaluate Gonzaga's paper footprint, and we have seen fluctuating paper usage with minimal improvements. To quantify costs in other terms, the cost of 19,020 reams of paper (95,100 pounds) on the environment is equivalent to:

- 766 trees
- 77,394 pounds of solid waste, the equivalent of about 3 garbage trucks full of waste
- 1,188 pounds of sulfur dioxide, or equivalent to the emissions of 216 18-wheelers a year
- 1,337 million BTU's of energy, or the equivalent of 15 homes a year
- 227,219 pounds of CO₂ equivalent, or that of 21 cars per year.
- 889,037 gallons of water, or enough to fill a large swimming pool with freshwater

Annual Comparisons:

	2011*	2012*	2013*	2014*
Sheets of Paper	9,705,000	8,570,000	9,510,000	9,125,000
Reams of Paper	19,410	17,140	19,020	18,250
% Recycled	0%	30% or more	30% or more	30%
Weight	97050	85,700 pds	95,100 pds	91240 pds
Cost	\$62,000	\$54,000 (13% cost savings)	\$63,776.38 (18% cost increase)	\$61,502.50 (3.6% reduction from 2013)
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)
Energy used in production	1567 mil. BTU's	1,256 mil. BTU's	1,385 million BTU's	1,337 million BTU's
Trees used	1,255	720	779	766
Trees saved	-	535	-59	13
Length if placed end-to-end	1684 miles	1487 miles	1651 miles	1584 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)

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

For more information visit www.papercalculator.org

Although the 2014 paper usage was slightly down from the 2013 amounts, it was still significantly higher than the 2012 amounts. The improvements have been significant given that they resulted from increased efficiency (decreased paper use) from 2013.

Major improvements have been made by using recycled content paper in the past, but the 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. By replacing only 48 of the purchased reams with 100% recycled content paper, we could save 362 trees, 1 swimming pool of freshwater, 3 cars worth of CO₂, and about 2 homes worth of energy in BTU's.