



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Student Government Association

0209J Stamp Student Union
College Park, MD, 20742

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to inquire about a policy that is relevant to your department on behalf of the UMD SGA's Student Sustainability Committee, which works to ensure that sustainability stays a campus-wide focus. A few of our initiatives from last year included, designing the "What Will YOU(md) Do?" Sustainability Pledge to encourage green personal behaviors in students' daily lives, organizing the annual Earth Day Festival, and lobbying President Loh to take actions to reduce campus carbon emissions, which resulted in his announcement of three energy initiatives: reduction of campus electricity use 20% by 2020, carbon-neutral new construction, and 100% purchase of clean power by 2020.

This year, we hope to continue improving the sustainability of our campus, by both demanding practical new policies and programs and enforcing those already in existence. One existing policy that we are particularly interested in is the **Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy** in the Fiscal and Business Affairs section of the University of Maryland Policies and Procedures (<http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/docs/VIII-310C.pdf>). This policy mandates that "*specifications and statements of work prepared by Departments and units of the University for procurement under delegated authority or for forwarding to the Department of Procurement and Supply for procurement shall procure general purpose office paper made from 100% post-consumer recycled content and seek solutions to minimize paper use.*" **This transition to 100% post-consumer recycled paper was supposed to have occurred by July 1, 2012.** In addition, other office paper is supposed to come from post-consumer recycled-content paper products from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified sources. It also recommends sustainable behaviors like double-sided printing, increased use of digital file management, using half-inch margins, and elimination of unnecessary printing.

We are contacting you today to ask for "YES" or "NO" replies to the following 3 questions:

1. **Is your department aware of this policy?**
2. **Does your department only purchases 100% post consumer recycled?**
3. **At any time, has the Department of Procurement and Supply informed you of this policy, or assisted you in complying with it?**

(Please use this link to provide us with your response: <http://tinyurl.com/EPPsurvey>)

The SSC is interested in this matter not to reprimand or berate, but to explore the current knowledge and attitude of university departments concerning this policy. Providing us with information about your department will be a huge help, and I thank you in advance. **Though, if you were unaware of this policy before this letter, and your department does not currently follow its mandated guidelines, we strongly ask that you please begin doing so immediately!**

If the EPP achieved campus-wide compliance, it would result in a wave of positive environmental impacts. Even though last year the University diverted 78% of waste from the landfill, the amount of paper consumed on campus is massive. Residential Facilities is currently arranging a new waste audit for the fall, but in the most recent 2002 audit, there was 1.5 million pounds of recyclable paper collected from the residence halls alone. One can only imagine the amount of paper that is discarded from all university departments. The least we can do is ensure that all paper that we use comes from sustainable sources, and that we use it consciously!

Once we receive broad feedback from departments across campus, we will be in touch with the Department of Procurement and Supply, who, according to the policy is largely in charge of enforcement. The policy mandates scheduled assistance visits and written reports on each Department's compliance, the suggestion of green alternatives to those who request materials from the Department of Procurement and Supply, and the use of Master Contracts for environmentally preferable goods and services commonly used at the University. Currently, they do have a "Buy Green" section on their website to explore environmentally preferable products available when ordering, with several useful links for green office supplies and energy efficient appliances, but we are unsure of how widely that resource is used, if at all.

I look forward to hearing from you, and appreciate all the work you do, and will admire it even more when it's printed double-sided on 100% post-consumer recycled paper!

