



CAMPUSES PURCHASING GREEN

Higher education institutions are anchor institutions for economic development in most of their communities. The 4,100 higher education institutions in the United States are large economic engines with annual operational budgets totaling \$270 billion in 2002, according to the Chronicle for Higher Education. This is greater than the GDP of all but twenty-five countries in the world. Imagine the economic leverage if universities were modeling sustainability by purchasing sustainably preferable products and services and how much greater the benefit could be if they were doing joint purchasing with local communities.

Campus Profiles

Cornell University

<http://www.sustainablecampus.cornell.edu/rrr-task.htm>

The spring of 2004 witnessed the first meetings of a new group of students, faculty and staff interested in increasing and promoting green purchasing practices at Cornell. During the summer of 2004, the group worked to define and refine their mission, vision and goals in preparation for a campus-wide launch in the fall of 2004. The GPTF hopes to establish Cornell as a recognized leader in green purchasing among other universities and within the community. They also hope to provide all Cornell University students with an awareness of green purchasing issues and solutions as part of their "Cornell experience".

Duke University

<http://www.duke.edu/sustainability/purchasing.html>

In 2004, Duke University adopted a comprehensive set of green purchasing guidelines. The guidelines were the result of staff-student collaboration and research that took place over a year. Once the guidelines were adopted, the emphasis moved to implementation, including the hiring of an intern to promote environmentally-sustainable purchasing across the campus. The guidelines are available on the website, as well as further details about the internship. Contact: Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Sam Hummel at Sam.Hummel@duke.edu.

Georgia Institute of Technology

<http://www.sustainable.gatech.edu/campus/purchasing.php>

Agencies of the State of Georgia, which includes Georgia Tech, are encouraged to purchase office supplies through a contract with Office Depot. A Green Purchasing Guide was created to help direct those who are responsible for purchasing supplies for their department toward items that have recycled content.

Harvard University

<http://www.greencampus.harvard.edu/cecp/purchasing.php>

Harvard University's Green Campus Initiative provides a green purchasing guide to reduce the cost and environmental impact of computer use within Harvard University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Not only are guidelines provided to help people choose energy efficient computers, monitors and peripherals, but software is offered that helps computer users activate power management for monitors.

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EFS WEST

1935 SE 24th Ave
Portland, Oregon 97214
www.efswest.org
info@efswest.org
503-222-7041

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Judy Walton, Ph.D.



New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability

<http://www.njheps.org/projects/purchasing.htm>

NJHEPS's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing & Sustainable Materials Use webpage offers a wealth of resource and organization links related to purchasing and procurement.

University of Michigan

<http://www.umich.edu/%7epurch/Stewardship/buygreen.html>

The Purchasing Department at the University of Michigan makes buying green easy by providing a detailed Green Purchasing page for campus constituencies. The page identifies products available through M-Stores, Strategic Suppliers, and Campus Wide Vendors that support the University's Environmental Stewardship initiatives. When necessary the Department negotiates special discount rates for products.

Online Resources (specific to colleges and universities)

Clean Air-Cool Planet

<http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/toolkit/content/blogsection/40/99/>

The Clean Air-Cool Planet on-line Campus Climate Action Toolkit (CCAT) aims to make available to anyone who is interested in making his/her educational institution more "climate friendly" - college or university students, staff, faculty, administrators, trustees, alumni, community members - a comprehensive guide to and resource for doing so. The connection to purchasing is simple – the goods we purchase require energy and resources to produce, package, transport, use, and/or dispose of - so choosing products whose life-cycle impacts are minimal can really reduce overall campus emissions.

National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Program

<http://www.nwf.org/campusEcology/>

In early 1989, the National Wildlife Federation challenged colleges to support Earth Day 1990 by starting environmental programs on campus and in the community. By summer, the Campus Ecology program had been established to work with college leaders and develop resources to help meet the challenge. More than ten years and 3,000 projects later, Campus Ecology continues to grow and move into new areas. Visit the website to learn more about Campus Ecology's *Driving Sustainable Markets Campaign*, campus case stories from around the country, student research projects and tips for purchasing products.

National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO)

<http://www.nacubo.org/x2153.xml>

Located in Washington, D.C., NACUBO serves a membership of more than 2,500 colleges, universities, and higher education service providers across the country. NACUBO represents chief administrative and financial officers through a collaboration of knowledge, professional development, advocacy and community. The website offers a rationale for why business officers should be concerned about environmental sustainability and promote environmentally friendly purchasing.

National Association of Education Buyers (NAEB)

<http://www.naeb.org>

NAEB is the professional association serving colleges and universities nationwide. NAEB was organized in 1921 to provide a forum where campus purchasing professionals might share valuable information.

Workers Rights Consortium (WRC)

<http://www.workersrights.org>

Worker's Rights Consortium (WRC) is a non-profit organization created by college and university administrations, students and labor rights experts. The WRC's purpose is to assist in the enforcement of manufacturing Codes of Conduct adopted by colleges and universities; these Codes are designed to ensure that factories/corporations producing clothing and other goods bearing colleges and university

names/logos respect the basic rights of workers. There are more than 90 colleges and universities affiliated with the WRC.

Online Resources (general)

Center for a New American Dream

<http://www.newdream.org/procure/>

The mission of the Center for a New American Dream is to help Americans consume responsibly to protect the environment, enhance quality of life, and promote social justice. CNAD's Institutional Purchasing Program offers strategies for state and local governments and other large purchasers to incorporate environmental considerations into purchasing decisions.

EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program

<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/>

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) is a federal-wide program that encourages and assists Executive agencies in the purchasing of environmentally preferable products and services. The website offers guiding principles and standards for decision-making. There's also a suite of tools, readings and links to local, state, federal and international resources.

Health Care Without Harm

<http://www.noharm.org/greenPurchasing/issue>

Health Care Without Harm is an international coalition of hospitals and health care systems, medical professionals, community groups, health-affected constituencies, labor unions, environmental and environmental health organizations and religious groups. Their Green Purchasing website offers a wealth of resources, ideas, fact sheets and templates for reducing institutional environmental impact through purchasing. While focused on health institutions, information and case stories are transferable to higher education settings.

North American Green Purchasing Initiative

http://www.cec.org/programs_projects/trade_environ_econ/nagpi/index.cfm?varlan=english

The North American Green Purchasing Initiative (NAGPI) Steering Committee is made up of major groups and agencies working with green purchasing in North America. NAGPI is housed at the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation and plays a coordinating role to develop and maintain a database of supporting tools and procurement policies used across North America, among other responsibilities.

Readings

Kevin Lyons. *Buying for the Future*. Sterling, VA: Pluto Press, 1999

Brian K. Yoeman, "Socially Responsible Purchasing," *NAEB Bulletin*, August 2004.

http://www.naeb.org/BULLETIN/Feature_Articles/Aug_2004_Yeoman.htm