

Testimonials:

“...the most impressive fact is that [one] School ended up saving somewhere in the range of \$10,000 by purchasing the recycled content paper from your vendor. They literally cut their paper costs in half. Their intention is to funnel these savings into future environmental projects.”

“It has definitely opened doors for us, and has helped many skeptical institutions get on board (specifically those institutions that are in the beginning stages of 'greening' and are worried it will cost too much money). The excitement of the Cooperative, and the fact that it allows them to undertake these initiatives cost effectively, inspires them to do further activities and continue to build their environmental leadership.”

“...we are so pleased to have all this wonderful Rutgers brainpower behind this resource.”

“As purchasing professionals become more active in local issues, it will show that purchasing does have a multidimensional appeal and can embrace a social agenda.”

Buying for the Future

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GP COOPERATIVE.

The Rutgers Green Purchasing Cooperative Program allows New Jersey K-12 schools, municipalities, colleges, universities and non-profit NGOs the opportunity to purchase Green goods and services by way of Rutgers competitively bid contracts. This program was designed with the environment, supply chain, purchasing and waste stream integration as one cohesive system-thinking concept.

Green Purchasing is the purchase of goods and services that minimize environmental impacts. It includes the purchase of products that have “a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products that serve the same purpose.”

The principle behind cooperative purchasing is that the more materials or equipment a group can purchase at one time, the less the unit price will be. The Rutgers University Green Purchasing Team (within the Purchasing Department) has applied this concept to the procurement of ‘green’ or ‘environmentally responsible’ products and services. The overall goal of this Green Purchasing Cooperative Program is to develop, implement and sustain a Green Purchasing program at Rutgers University and organizations that share the University’s green purchasing policy and priority (organizations that include but are not limited to universities, schools, cities, townships, counties or any other local government agency, and non-profit NGOs).

The environmental impacts of organizational operations directly relate to products purchased and used. The “greening” of organizational purchasing is therefore an immediate and practical step organizations can take to improve environmental performance. Green Purchasing not only helps improve environmental conditions, but also results in significant (but not always immediate) savings in organizational budget expenditures. Green Purchasing can also influence the behavior of other sectors, such as local governments, and the business community, by setting an example and by sending clear signals to the market that there is a preference for green, clean and safe products. The purchasing decisions of an organization (university, school, city, township or any other local government, public or private sector entity) can have significant market influences. When organizational or governmental purchasing policies favor ecologically sensible products and services, these goods become more readily accessible to individuals and smaller businesses throughout the United States and globally. It therefore makes sense, economically as well as environmentally, for organizations to establish and implement Green Purchasing programs.

Growing interest and involvement in Green Purchasing by both public and private organizations have resulted in the availability of an increasing number of environmentally responsible alternative products in the marketplace, making the important transition to green purchasing easier.

The Green Purchasing Team at Rutgers University developed this Green Purchasing Cooperative Program to help commence and build the framework for a Green Purchasing program for most organizations and to engage individuals in supporting, developing and sustaining their Green Purchasing program.

We believe that the best way to influence change on industry is to demand it collectively. If you believe that your organization can benefit from this program, please contact us to get started.

[greenpurchasing.rutgers.edu/
cooperative.html](http://greenpurchasing.rutgers.edu/cooperative.html)

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