

PURCHASING FACT SHEET

Did you know?

Many sustainable products cost the same or less than other, less sustainable, products!

Inventory Chemicals and Equipment

Keeping an inventory of chemicals and equipment is not only a way to prevent over-purchasing these items, it also allows equitable access for your entire lab, and encourages potential collaboration with neighbouring labs. Buying wisely and in the minimum amount required for research questions ensure that chemicals are not forgotten or become unsafe with time



Check out our [website](#) for more tips and tricks to make your lab more sustainable!



Download the Green Labs Certification Form today! Submit to: sustainability@caltech.edu



Check out this GREEN PROCUREMENT TOOL website to learn more!



ACT LABEL PROGRAM

Cutting Edge Practices

Some labs have begun swapping out traditional office supplies for 100% recycled products, to great benefit, with few lab members even noticing the change! It is estimated that the average office worker uses roughly 10,000 sheets of copy paper a year, but around 30% are never even picked up! Some recycled products include 100% recycled copy paper, post-it notes, writing pads, or reusable notebooks. More information on this trend can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

There are a lot of other eco-friendly office supplies including tape, file folders, dish soap, sponges, scrubbers, napkins, beeswax wrap or bags for leftovers, and disposable plates. And, of course, we can't forget the most necessary of all products: coffee! A few good eco-friendly options for this ever-necessary, and life-giving substance include coffee stir sticks, compostable K cups and other reusable capsules or reusable k-cup coffee pods with disposable filters. Lastly, but certainly not least, eco-conscious and/or ethically-sourced coffee coffee coffee coffee.

What can you do?

1. **CHECK** if your products have return programs for packaging (including Styrofoam), if products are recyclable after use, if TechMart recommends these products as "green" (indicated by a green leaf near the product), or if they have an ACT LABEL (a label that provides clear information about the environmental impact of a product).
2. **CONSIDER** swapping the products you commonly order to sustainable options (if needed, reach out to vendors to see if you can get price-matching discounts!)
3. **COMPARE** equipment choices see if there are "eco-friendly" modes which reduce energy consumption; items have more sustainable consumable options; a longer average lifespan; fewer maintenance requirements; or if the end-of-life recyclability of an item is environmentally friendly.
4. **REDUCE** the number of purchases you make by minimizing the size of experiments, or collaborate with a neighbouring lab to reduce the number of orders.
5. **INVENTORY** supplies and equipment to ensure you are not over-ordering, and establish an easy system for labs to order common goods. Also check out the Green Labs Glassware/Equipment/Chemical share program.