

# PURCHASING FACT SHEET

## 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.

## Did you know?

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



Check out this GREEN PROCUREMENT TOOL website to learn more!



Submit the GREEN LABS CERTIFICATION form to [sustainability@caltech.edu](mailto:sustainability@caltech.edu)



Check our WEBSITE for more tips and tricks to make your lab sustainable!



Check out the ACT LABEL PROGRAM here!