

GREEN TEAM NEWS

Citrus College
Workforce Development
VTEA supported
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Green Resource Online

*Contributed by
Dr. Dave Ryba*

TheOilDrum.com is the best all-purpose forum available for energy related issues out there.

Part of the website is a regular summary of media articles on environmental issues. Interest in Peak Oil has waned since the crash of 2008, but, curiously, it is on the uptick again. There are some great articles in the current Drumbeat, as well as good discussions. Do a little reading (and lose some sleep) if you are interested.



Buying Green

Contributed by Bob Iverson

Bob Lopez, Judy Proctor, Dawn Dineley, Bernece Deck, Eunice Low, Craig Smith, and Bob Iverson; Citrus College Purchasing Department



The Purchasing Department has a number of practices in place to reduce the campus carbon footprint and to “buy green.”

Rather than using paper copies, the Purchasing Department provides bid documents and information requests electronically, via email and the Purchasing Department website. The Purchasing handbook used to be sent in hard copy and is now on our website for reference. Orders are consolidated whenever possible to reduce cost, paper, and staff hours. We recycle paper and cardboard, plastic and aluminum. We purchase nonbleached paper products, when feasible, which we have tested for usability.

The Purchasing staff seek suppliers who ship locally. Though a company may be headquartered on the east coast, they often have a warehouse in the Ontario area which reduces fuel needed for transport, costs, and carbon footprint.

Almost all of our purchases are Energy Star rated. We use 3-phase motors which are more efficient, and we favor recycled products. We have a new vendor for toner cartridges who provides us with a recycled product. It decreases the plastic and metal used in the cartridges, reduces what goes into landfill, and reduces our cost by 45% which is about \$44,000 per year.

The purchasing department also oversees the copiers on campus. We consult with offices to choose the appropriate machine for their needs and encourage departments to purchase printers that use less ink and toner and consume less energy. Many offices use printer sharing, which further reduces energy use and costs.

We're beginning to use copier network communication technology that can send print jobs to a copier rather than a desk-top printer. The cost is higher to print on a desk-top unit, and it uses more toner. This communication card also allows printed material to be scanned and transmitted electronically via email to forego making hard copies.

Leslie Arnold, our custodial supervisor, tests new products and supplies and uses a variety of vendors to reduce the impact of the product on the environment and to the user. She uses bulk supplies and reusable applicators to reduce plastic and costs.

Purchasing is increasing our sustainable practices and helping to keep Citrus College **Green!**