

GREEN PAPER PRODUCTS THROUGH GOVERNMENT'S CORPORATE SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT (CSA)

This article is about choosing green paper products through the [CSA](#); but first let's freshen up on the three Rs. Remember to:

- **REDUCE** paper use: stop and think before you print.
- **RE-USE** the back of scrap paper for notes and lists.
- **RECYCLE** office paper in blue bins and secure shredding containers.

But since we do need to buy paper, should we use greener paper? According to the [Guidelines for Procurement of Environmentally Responsible Products and Services](#) (linked to BC's Core Policy Manual section 6.3.1) the answer is YES:

- Where feasible and cost effective, the Government of British Columbia will acquire products and services that are environmentally responsible. Environmentally responsible products are those that reduce waste, improve energy efficiency, limit toxic by-products, contain recycled content or are reusable.
- The substitution of environmentally sensitive products for more environmentally harmful products will increase as their usage becomes more **prevalent** and as they become more **cost effective** and of **comparable quality** to those products previously purchased.

Environmentally sensitive paper products are now **prevalent, cost effective** and of **comparable quality** to paper previously purchased, all through the Office Products Corporate Supply Arrangement! Here's how:

1. Access the Staples Advantage catalogue through the [CSA web page](#);
2. Hit the **eco-Friendly button** (this button is great - use it for all of your purchases to learn the greenest options!); and
3. Click on 'paper, pads & filing';
4. You should now see a list of green paper products organized by lowest price first.

Note: green paper products have been around for a while - they look and perform just like traditional paper. But if you have any doubts, please give them a chance - purchase a pack and try them out.

There are many shades of greener paper; here are your options:

Renewable Paper

Wheat, wheat straw, and sugar cane papers – this paper is made from agricultural residue – feedstocks that grow faster than trees. Wheat paper uses 60 - 80% wheat straw mixed with wood fibres; sugar paper uses 95% sugar cane product.

While wheat paper is currently made in India, there is ample wheat residue in Canada and suppliers are looking into starting plants here. Even shipped from India, wheat paper has a similar carbon footprint to 100% recycled paper.

Recycled Paper

Look for “post-consumer” recycled paper – it’s made from the paper we recycle.

Using 40 cases of 100% recycled instead of virgin paper saves the equivalent of 24 trees (forty feet high x 6-8 inches around) 7,000 gallons of water, 4,100 kilowatt hours of electricity, and 60 pounds of air pollution.¹

Or 30% recycled: 7.2 trees, 2,100 gallons of water, 1,230 kw hours of electricity, and 18 pounds of air pollution.

Certified Paper

If you must use virgin paper, use paper certified by Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC) or Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). These “chain of custody” certifications ensure responsible environmental management throughout the paper’s life from the forest to the manufacturer, distributor and retailer.

Most greener papers are also “Elemental Chlorine Free” or “Processed Chlorine Free Certified” – these certifications ensure the most environmentally-preferable bleaching process is used.

How do I choose?

Using the **ecoOptions button** makes it simple. Unless you have a particular preference, use the least expensive eco option that’s available.

¹ These numbers come from the Staples Brand of recycled paper.