



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Did you know that the United States consumes approximately 25% of the world's resources with only 5% of the world's population? Resources include raw materials that go into the production of everything we buy. Purchases of both necessity and extravagance, and everything in between, can have serious repercussions on the environment. That is why it is important that when making a purchase you take more into consideration than just cost.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP), or buying green, refers to purchasing products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose.

Whether you are an individual consumer, a school or a business, it is important to make healthy purchasing choices that will benefit you, your community and your environment. In your work place, establish a policy that sets green standards for the supplies you buy. The men's clothing store, [Benjamin Peters](#), for example, is a ReBusiness Partner that follows green purchasing practices for items such as toilet paper and paper towels.

Office products are often the easiest sector in which to begin environmentally preferable purchasing. Consider piloting a program to only buy office products with recycled content in them. For example, [Jinnie Clip Zebra pens](#) are made from 75% recycled material including car headlights and CDs! These pens are also refillable, so rather than having to buy all new pens, you can save money by just buying the ink cartridges.

Use the online green purchasing resource, www.fingerlakesbuygreen.org, to find environmentally preferable products in the local area.



September 28th is the United Nation's designated Green Consumer Day

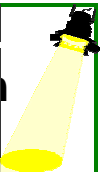


This global celebration highlights the issues surrounding consumerism and its impact on the environment. This is an area of major concern in today's global market orientated world, and provides opportunity to "close the loop" from recycling to rebuying. **Use this day to start your own Green Consumer practices at home or at work!**



- Purchase paper with recycled content for all your printing needs.
- Try to purchase items/goods produced by a local company.
- Buy non-toxic cleaning supplies.
- Reduce packaging and buy in bulk.
- Look for Green Seal, EcoLogo, or the Environmental Protection Agency certified products.

ReBusiness Spotlight: Southern Tier AIDS Program (STAP)



STAP has begun purchasing office paper with 100% recycled content. In conjunction with green purchasing, **STAP** also reuses scrap paper before recycling. **STAP** is a great example of the hierarchy of the 4R's.

Employees reduce and reuse scrap paper, recycle it, and then buy recycled paper!

STAP also considers environmental impact when purchasing cleaning supplies.

Since becoming a ReBusiness Partner, **STAP** has noticed increased employee awareness. Employees now use labeled recycling bins and consistently look for new ways to recycle items.

The Ithaca Branch of **STAP** is located at 501 South Meadow St, or on the web at www.stapinc.com.

