



# GREEN PURCHASING AND LIVING GUIDE

SPONSORED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY GROUP

**Energy Star®:** Energy Star® is the Environmental Protection Agency's program for labeling products with superior energy efficiency. These "green" products are more efficient and save money in energy costs. In the last decade, Americans have purchased over one billion Energy Star rated products.

The following Energy Star rated products are often purchased for dorm room use: Computer Monitors, Printers, Scanners, TVs, VCRs, DVD Players, Stereos, Phones, Desk Lamps, Floor Lamps, Light Bulbs, and Compact Refrigerators.



Money Isn't All You're Saving

## COMPUTING

Notebook computers use 80% less energy than desktops. Flat panel monitors use less energy and increase available desk space. Energy Star rated computers, monitors and printers will automatically enter a low power mode after a period of inactivity.

## PRINTING

Wait until you get to campus before purchasing a personal printer to see what resources are available for printing documents. Although Colby provides free access to printers, please print only when necessary. Centralized printing cuts down on energy use. You can use your Zip Disk, CR-RW, or e-mail account to transfer your documents to a campus computer for printing.

If you chose to purchase a printer, you can recycle ink and laser toner cartridges on campus. Also, purchase remanufactured (not recharged) toner cartridges.

## ENTERTAINMENT

TVs use more energy than any other home electronic equipment, even when they are not turned on because of their instant on feature. Watching TV in your residence hall lounge saves energy and is a great way to meet your neighbors.

Energy Star audio equipment can use one-tenth the energy of standard models.

Many students use their computers to play music, which cuts down on buying extra electronics AND saves energy.

## REFRIGERATORS

Standard compact refrigerators purchased for dorm rooms may use almost as much energy as full-sized models. Energy Star rated models use approximately 20% less energy. Sharing a compact refrigerator with roommates or hall mates is an excellent way to save energy.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY GROUP ASKS THAT YOU PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR DORM ROOM AND CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF EACH PURCHASE YOU MAKE. TALK WITH YOUR ROOMMATE(S) ABOUT PURCHASING COMMUNAL APPLIANCES, AND CONSIDER WHAT APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES ARE ALREADY MADE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS TO USE IN THEIR DORM AND ON CAMPUS.

## LIGHTING

Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFL) use 66% less energy than incandescent light bulbs, last 10 times longer, and provide high-quality light.

To use the most efficient task lighting possible, replace incandescent bulbs with CFL bulbs or purchase lamps that use fluorescent tubes or High Intensity Discharge (HID) bulbs.

## PHONES

Cordless phones use energy continuously. Cordless phones with an Energy Star rating use about one-third of the energy of standard models. If possible, purchase a phone with a cord.

## FURNITURE AND CARPETING

Purchase second-hand furniture and other supplies (dishes, lamps, storage containers) at thrift stores and at the Colby RESCUE sale before classes begin in the fall. Scrap carpeting (leftover pieces of commercial carpeting) is economical and comes in many sizes.

## BATH AND LAUNDRY

Biodegradable and non-phosphorus bath supplies and laundry detergents can be broken down by microorganisms, reduce nutrient loading, and are non-toxic to aquatic species. Instead of using the dryer, consider drying your clothes on a drying rack.

## CLASS SUPPLIES

Most class supplies are available with some recycled content. Try to purchase supplies that are durable and reusable. Purchase non-chlorine and non-deinked paper with a high recycled content. Use scrap paper for notes (a binder can keep your notes organized). Purchase used books, share books with friends and classmates, or check books out from Colby libraries.

## RESCUE:



At the beginning of each year, Colby holds a RESCUE – Recycle Everything Save Colby's Usable Excess – sale, where used dorm supplies, appliances, and furniture are sold. At the end of each year, students can avoid the waste stream by giving their unwanted clothes, furniture, and dorm supplies to Colby RESCUE.

## Top 10 Sustainability Tips

Just as important as green purchasing is minimizing your resource use and waste stream. Below is a list of some of the things you can do to conserve resources and minimize waste.

1. Buy goods with some recycled content; this creates a market for recycled material.
2. Consider the lifetime of a product: Try to reduce your use of disposable items (razors, dishes, coffee cups) and items with excessive packaging.
3. Set your computer to 'sleep' or 'stand by' after several minutes of non-use to save energy consumed by your monitor and/or hard drive.
4. Edit documents on the computer screen as much as possible to avoid printing multiple drafts. Then, print on both sides of the paper.
5. Minimize water use: Do only full loads of laundry; don't run water constantly when brushing your teeth or shaving; and limit your shower time.
6. Close storm windows and windows you see open during cool months.
7. Turn off lights that are not in use.
8. Find new uses for old things. For example, recycle grocery bags as trash bags.
9. Give unwanted appliances, clothing, and furniture to Colby RESCUE at the end of the year so that they can be recycled and remain out of the waste stream.
10. Be responsible stewards – know what resources you use, what waste you generate, and where your waste goes.

## Useful Websites:

Environmental Advisory Group

[www.colby.edu/eag/](http://www.colby.edu/eag/)

Sustainable Computer Tips

[www.colby.edu/info.tech/green/](http://www.colby.edu/info.tech/green/)

Energy Star

[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)