AHS implements “Going Green” initiative

One of the most important concerns for Canadians is the environment. We all look for things that we can do that will reduce our impact on the environment and reduce its carbon footprint. The AHS Computing Office wants to do its part and has implemented its own “Going Green” initiative. In the past year, we have been examining all of our activities and purchases to take into consideration the impact each of them has on the environment. While each of the changes we have made might seem small, when seen collectively, we feel we are beginning to make a difference and set an example for others. On the next page of this “Green Edition” of the AHS Computing Newsletter, you can read about some of the things we have already done as well as some of the things you can do in “going green” in your use of technology.

IT Taking the Lead on Green

Many companies are now placing a greater importance on the issue of Green Computing. There are many programs that have recently been introduced. For instance,

- Staples USA has introduced a [Nationwide Computer and Office Technology Recycling Program](http://www.nationwide.com/recycling)
- IBM plans a [Green Computing Hub](http://www.ibm.com) in Ireland
- [Userful](http://www.userful.com), a Calgary based company has developed software to enable 1 computer to be shared by 10 users
- [Intel](http://www.intel.com) is developing [green technologies](http://www.intel.com) for its customers and within its own organization
- Dell has set the goal of being the [Greenest Technology Company](http://www.dell.com)
- Yahoo has developed a [Doing Our Part program](http://www.yahoo.com) to become a [Carbon Neutral Company](http://www.yahoo.com)

While Green initiatives might be the ‘in’ thing to do as part of a marketing scheme. However, it is reassuring and motivating to see larger corporations taking the initiative to be environmentally friendly.

Green Initiative Contest

AHS Computing is having a contest! The Green Initiative is something that everyone can participate in. The only way we can make a difference is by working together. Our goal is to come up with new ideas to become green.

If you have ideas or suggestions on how to green up our faculty, please submit them to:

goinggreen@healthy.uwaterloo.ca

The best suggestion, as chosen by the staff of AHS Computing, will win a 8GB Kingston USB Memory Key.
Green Paper

Our undergraduate student labs are now using Cascades Rolland Enviro100 Copy paper. It is 100% post consumer fibre and chlorine free.

The use one ton, representing 40 cartons of 5000 sheets size 8½ x 11, helps the environment in the following ways:

• Saves the equivalent of 17 trees
• Reduces solid wastes by 1,081 lb
• Reduces the quantity of water used by 10,196 gallons
• Reduces air emissions by 2,098 lb.
• Reduces natural gas consumption by 2,478 cubic feet by using biogas

Have you considered changing your paper source? Drop by BMH 2301 to see a sample.

Powering Down Your PC

Is it really necessary to have your computer on overnight? In the past AHS Computing has scheduled updates to your PC during the night. However, with new technologies available, we now have the option of powering down your pc. What’s even better is that we can have your pc boot up on it’s own, install the updates and be ready for you when you come to work in the morning. If you are interested in activating this technology please contact a member of AHS Computing.

Please note: In order to participate, you must have a Dell pc running Windows Vista.

Other Green Impact & Initiatives

It is estimated that power consumption by computers account for 2% of global carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. That is roughly the same carbon output that is produced by the airline industry. Reducing the IT carbon footprint is being addressed. There are many ways that IT is becoming Green and AHS Computing is committed to this cause.

Here are some of the schemes that are in progress:

• Removal of CRT monitors (76W) and replacing them with LCD monitors (20W)
• Removal of out-of-date computers that are not energy efficient
• Recycling of used printer cartridges, sent to Tri-Charge to be re-filled and re-used
• Surplusing of old computers to be sold and re-used
• Powering down of student lab computers at 11:00pm and having them boot at 6:45am
• Power saving schemes that turn monitors off after 15 minutes of inactivity
• Default printing in the student labs set to duplex
• Purchasing of duplex printers for offices
• Investigation of Virtualization of server applications including Windows Updates and Anti-Virus distribution

What are other Universities Doing?

By far the University of British Columbia is the leader in “Green Initiatives”. The UBC—Sustainability Office was implemented in 1997 to “promote, coordinate and implement the most effect sustainability practices possible”. Here are links so other institutions and their environmental initiatives.

University of Waterloo — [Greening the Faculty of Environment](http://www.ahsco.uwaterloo.ca/green)
University of Ottawa—[Green Campus](http://www.ahsco.uwaterloo.ca/green)
University of Toronto—[Sustainability Office](http://www.ahsco.uwaterloo.ca/green)
University of Victoria—[Sustainability](http://www.ahsco.uwaterloo.ca/green)

Green Initiative Webpage

The AHS Computing office is proud to announce the launch of its “Going Green” webpage. As our devoted readers are aware, AHS Computing has been making an effort to reduce their environmental impact through several Green initiatives (not to be confused with our “The Green Initiative Fund” April fool’s joke). The “Going Green” webpage documents our effort to reduce our carbon footprint and increase the faculty’s computing sustainability. For information on our efforts or to find out how you can make a difference, please visit:

[http://www.ahsco.uwaterloo.ca/green](http://www.ahsco.uwaterloo.ca/green)