



# Purchasing Resource Toolkit



## Purchasing Action Items:

- I use a reusable coffee mug, thermos, or bottle instead of a disposable cup when I purchase to-go drinks at food establishments to save money and eliminate the item ending up in a landfill. Temple offers some great discounts for bringing your own mug!  
**- Visit the Office of Sustainability to pick up a reusable mug and water bottle**
- I purchase products with a high percentage of recycled content material, such as paper towels, tissues, etc. to conserve resources and energy when possible.
- I reduce the waste I produce by buying in bulk to reduce excessive packaging and save money when possible.
- I often shop at stores or on websites that sell second-hand products rather than purchasing new belongings which adds to the waste stream. ex. consignment, thrift, or vintage stores.  
**- Philly Thrift Stores**
- I use green cleaning supplies (i.e. are non-toxic, bleach-free, free of phosphates, free of synthetic dyes or fragrances, free of volatile organic compounds) to make healthy choices for my body and the environment.  
**- Safer Choice Search Tool, Environmental Protection Agency**
- I use green laundry products free of synthetic fragrances and dyes, phosphates, bleach, and surfactant nonylphenol ethoxylate or NPEs to make smart choices for your body and the environment.  
**- Safer Choice Search Tool, Environmental Protection Agency**
- I avoid cosmetic scrubs and products that contain plastic microbeads that ultimately end up polluting oceans.  
**- Skin Deep Cosmetics Database, Environmental Working Group**
- I avoid “fast fashion” (constantly buying new clothes and/or accessories to only wear them once or twice).
- I bought an indoor air quality friendly plant (such as Aloe or Bamboo) as opposed to spray or plug-in chemical air fresheners to make smart choices for my body and the environment while saving money.
- I buy Energy Star certified appliances and electronics to save energy and money in the long run, if applicable.  
**- Energy Star Product Finder**
- I use recycled paper for printing (If you print from Temple Public Computing Sites you already do this!) to save trees, energy, water, and landfill space while protecting forests.



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## *Further Learning:*

- ① Circular Economy: What is it + how does it work?, RTS
- ① The complete e-waste recycling process, RTS
- ① Founding Members, Circular Philadelphia
- ① Safer Choice Fact Sheet, EPA