

What are your top three tips for going green?

*The following responses are available on AALLNET only. For the responses published in the December 2008 issue of *AALL Spectrum*, please see the issue in its entirety.

“I reuse paper that is only printed on one side by printing on the other before recycling. This reduces my printing costs to the price of toner cartridges. I find that massive amounts of reusable paper are available from bins near copiers and the Lexis/Westlaw printers. While I print large quantities of paper every year, I use less than one ream of purchased paper.

“I reuse my plasticware from lunch. I keep a container at the office for used plastic knives, forks, and spoons. Once or twice a month I take them home and put them through the dishwasher. You’d be amazed at how many uses you can get from them before they break. This helps both the office supply budget and the environment.

“I recycle everything that can be. This includes all mailings (reusing suitable paper in my printer), cardboard, glass, plastic, etc.”

- Glenn Higley, acquisitions specialist at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Leon E. Bloch Law Library

“I have some pretty basic ways to be green, which I don’t think are very unique. First, in summer I try to keep the temperature in my office at around 77 degrees, turning on a fan if need be. In winter, I dress warmer and keep the temp around 68.

“Although I use plasticware purchased for the staff lounge, I wash and reuse the utensils until they break.

“I save packing peanuts from packages we receive (mostly with computers) and reuse those for all ILL packages, as well as for book returns.

“Finally, I keep printouts of any paper with a clean side and use those for daily printing needs. I’ve found I rarely need to get a new ream of paper because there are so many printouts we can reuse.”

- Victoria A. Coulter, head of acquisitions and serials at the University of Wisconsin Law Library in Madison

“Washington College of Law Pence Law Library distributed all of its law library information for incoming students at orientation this year on a jump drive. We chose this ‘giveaway’ because we know students will need and use it. It also marketed the law library with our logo and provided a way to get the information out to everyone with *no* paper or toner being used.”

- Billie Jo Kaufman, associate dean for library and information resources at American University Washington College of Law Pence Law Library in Washington, D.C.

“I don’t have three tips on going green. I only have one tip, and truthfully, it is not mine. The tip is one I heard from Judy Meadows, director of the State Law Library of Montana. She put the idea in the context of distance services, but it could also work for going green.

“Judy said to pretend you are serving Montana. If you pretend you are serving Montana, remote access becomes key. Then you realize how helpful it is to any pro se litigant who has mobility challenges, such as getting to the courthouse or parking.

“Now take it a step further and realize how much of your customers’ energy use you can save with remote access.”

- Lisa Rush, manager of the Travis County Law Library in Austin

member to member

“Be energy usage and recycling savvy:

- Evaluate and enhance your library’s energy-usage policies
- Inventory the library’s electrical equipment (computers, copiers, air conditioning, water-heating units) energy usage to identify the energy wasters and replace them with energy-efficient units
- Consider an alternative energy source, such as a solar paneling building roof
- Take your recyclables to your local recycle center for reimbursement—it all adds up.

“Be paper smart:

- Reduce the default margins of your computer applications (Word, Excel, etc.)
- Print and copy using double-sided
- Recycle all paper products—even the packaging peanuts made from polystyrene (Styrofoam); biodegradable, starch-based peanuts that dissolve in water can be used for composting
- Contact mail/package service franchises (UPS stores, Mail Boxes Etc.) to provide used packaging materials (boxes, Styrofoam peanuts) for a fee.”

- The Staff at Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library in Oakland, California, and its Branch Library in Hayward, California