Fall 2017 Challenge: Green Purchasing

Whether you are purchasing supplies or equipment for office, operations or programs, all departments should use these guidelines to assist in purchasing of environmentally-preferred products and services where appropriate.

**Look for the following:**
- Made from renewable resources (ex: choosing paper over plastic)
- Made from recycled materials (recommend minimum 30% post-consumer materials)
- Recyclable (when you are done with it)
- Minimal packaging and buying in bulk
- Locally produced
- Low VOC (volatile organic compounds) furnishing, paints, etc.
- Low toxicity cleaning products
- **Energy Star rated** products and appliances

And, of course... Don’t forget to bring a reusable (cloth) bag with you to the store to bring your purchases back to work.

**More resources and information:**
- [Search green products and services](http://www.greenseal.org)
- [EPA Sustainable Marketplace](http://www.epa.gov): Greener Products and Services
  - Identify greener products and services
  - Understand the benefits of buying green
  - Make sense of ecolabels and marketing claims