

Sustainability is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



NOVEMBER 2014

Creighton  
UNIVERSITY

## Purchasing Pup e-News

### GREENER IS HEALTHIER

Many office products such as cleaners, disinfectants, glues, markers and Styrofoam are made with substances that are harmful or toxic to human health. Some products even contain ingredients that can never be metabolized by the human body, meaning they can build up over time and cause health problems ([read more](#)). By choosing products that are green you not only protect the planet but protect your health and the health of your coworkers. Purchase biodegradable, VOC-free and non-toxic. Watch for hazardous materials in these products:



**Styrofoam cups** (use paper)  
**Disinfectant wipes**  
**Cleaners**  
**Glues**  
**Markers**



PROTECT YOUR HEALTH. LOOK FOR THESE LOGOS:



### THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH

Ever wonder where your garbage ends up?

In the middle of the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and Japan lies one of the world's **biggest garbage** dumps. Garbage gets caught in the North Pacific Gyre, an area where two currents come together and form a whirlpool. Some scientists estimate that the garbage patch is **twice the size of Texas**. However, it is not an actual island but more like a soupy or sludge-like mixture. Much of the garbage consists of tiny pieces of plastic that float beneath the surface of the water. This plastic never biodegrades and continues to break down into smaller and smaller pieces releasing toxic chemicals such as **Bisphenal A**. Birds, fish and other marine animals can get tangled in plastic debris or they consume the plastic and die. Larger animals also eat the plastic or eat fish and birds that have consumed it, meaning this plastic eventually enters the human food supply chain.

Break the plastic habit. Adopt these green behaviors and you can help protect a healthy food chain!

**Don't purchase bottled water**  
**Use reusable cups, dishes, water bottles**  
**Ask for paper not plastic or bring your own reusable bags**  
**Recycle plastic containers instead of throwing them away**

### Choose alternatives to Styrofoam for a healthier future

Polystyrene foam, often referred to as Styrofoam™, is made from styrene which can be **hazardous** to human health if exposed over a long period of time. **Evidence suggests** that low levels of styrene can leach into hot food and beverages from polystyrene cups and containers, but more studies are needed to confirm these results. However, even if our exposure is low, exposure for workers manufacturing these products is very high and can have adverse health effects especially to the central nervous system. Polystyrene also takes decades to degrade meaning it will still be around when your great, great, great grandchildren are born. By choosing to use paper or reusable cups and containers we can influence the market and insure a healthy planet for generations to come.

YouTube

Check out this **FUN VIDEO** from Yale's purchasing department

Share your green story with [mjduda@creighton.edu](mailto:mjduda@creighton.edu)