Through a recent joint effort, UConn and OfficeMax have identified several products that can help change the way we think about what we purchase every day. Through the identification of alternate products, these “budget busters” (commonly purchased supplies) can provide you with the same functionality and be more cost effective. Skeptical? Don’t be! This past spring Procurement Services formed an Office Supply User Group to engage end users in the contract management process. This group, consisting of representatives from various Schools and Colleges, as well as the regional campuses, tested a number of products and provided feedback as to the form, fit and functionality of each item. The products tested included items such as binders, pens, tape, hanging file folders, paper clips, post-its, etc. Based on their feedback, several products were deemed acceptable. As a result, effective immediately, the products previously offered through OfficeMax will be replaced with new greener, and/or more cost effective alternatives.

Additionally, members of the user group have also begun testing remanufactured toner. Not only will this pending initiative allow the University to realize substantial cost savings, but will also ensure we are being responsible stewards of our environment. Although this offering is still under review, we are hopeful that this effort will assist us in reaching our goal to greatly reduce UConn’s overall carbon footprint, through offering a more environmentally friendly recycled alternative. Please help us reach this goal today by becoming a “green budget buster”.

**WHY SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS?**

- Cost effective
- Environmentally friendly
- Because Ucare