

Q	Why is the college putting printing quotas on student printing for the Fall 2009 quarter?
A	As the largest population on campus, the students produce an incredible amount of paper-output. Unfortunately, much of this paper output ends up in the recycle bins around campus. We are hoping that by budgeting their printing credits, students will become more aware of how their printing habits effect campus sustainability efforts.
Q	Are there other driving factors behind this decision?
A	Yes. Governor Gregoire has required us to reduce printing by 30%. However, we had already started down this path when this was announced.
Q	Is this in response to budget issues or environmental best practices?
A	Yes to both. Everett Community College is currently focusing time and energy into sustainable and green practices across campus. Reducing our paper waste naturally fits into our greener practices. Being better stewards of fiscal resources also plays into campus sustainability.
Q	Speaking of fiscal resources, aren't my printing costs covered under the eTech fees I currently pay?
A	The eTech fees pay for the hardware and some software students use on campus. Printing costs such as paper, toner and repairs come out of the campus IT budget.
Q	If this is coming out of the IT budget, isn't this larger than just student printing on campus?
A	Absolutely. Along with our initiative to reduce student printing, we are also rolling-out an initiative to address potential wasteful printing practices by employees. As a campus community, we all need to do our part.
Q	How will my printing be tracked?
A	The college will use a tool called PaperCut which will track and manage student printing. You will also be able to use this tool to manage how well you are doing toward reducing your printing on campus. This tool will also allow you to 'gift' unused printing capacity to a friend.
Q	How do I access this tool?
A	We are currently creating the student interface. The tool will be available Fall Quarter 2009. Stay tuned.
Q	How did you arrive at the 350 page limit per student per quarter?
A	The college researched other college and university methods. Quotas ranged from 200 - 400 pages per student per quarter. The student leaders on our campus and us agreed that something like 350 pages should suffice for most students. This coincides with my experience at South Seattle Community College where 95% of students print less than 250 pages a quarter. We will be monitoring our success and make printing limit changes if necessary. The 350 page allotment is our best guesstimate. We know that there may be students with legitimate need for additional capacity based on the program within which they are enrolled. These will be handled separately.
Q	What happens if I exceed my quota?
A	Friends on campus can 'gift' printing capacity to each other via a simple web site. You can also use that site to monitor your printing and status. You will also be able to purchase additional printing capacity from the cashier.
Q	How many trees will actually be saved because of our efforts?
A	One tree equates to 8,335 pages of paper (or 16.67 reams). The college as a whole prints/copies 601,642 pages of paper a month. If we work together and reduce printing by 10% we would save 7.2 trees a month. If we reduce by 20% we would save almost 173 trees over a year's time. If we meet the Governor's requirement of reducing printing by 30%, we will be saving 259 trees over a year.
Q	Any suggestion for what can I do now to my reduce printing?
A	Some things we print may simply not need to be printed. A course syllabus probably does not need to be printed if available online via Angel or other online sources. eBooks and other materials posted online may not need to be printed. You can consider using Print Preview to proof your homework assignments before submitting them to your instructor. All of us will need to critically think about our printing practices and make changes that align us with the campus sustainability initiatives. Print double sided whenever you can.