

DPS ENVIRONMENTAL MYTH BUSTERS—# 2

Myth: Don't use recycled paper because it jams the printer, it isn't as good quality and degrades quicker than virgin paper.

SBS has been trialling paper that has a 50% recycled content. This means that 50% of the paper fibres are from recycled paper and 50% are virgin fibres.

Our trial was a success! No one noticed any difference from the virgin paper. The paper is also cheaper than the virgin paper we were using.

The message is simple: "switch to recycled paper".
Here's why:

Recycled paper is just as good as virgin paper

Paper that contains recycled content is just as good as virgin paper in terms of finish, whiteness and weight of the paper. No one can tell the difference.

Manufacturing processes are better for the environment

There are environmental impacts associated with sourcing both recycled pulp and virgin pulp. However using recycled pulp typically saves energy and water, as well as trees. It simply takes less effort to make the pulp from recycled paper than trees.

It lasts just as long as virgin paper

The recycled paper we trialled lasts more than 100 years. This is typical for other types of recycled copy paper and equivalent to virgin paper. If you want to print material to be archived, National Archives of Australia suggests you use actual archival paper, not virgin or recycled paper.

- ✕ Don't forget to recycle the packaging that the paper comes in.
- ✕ And, the best thing for the environment is to reduce our paper use.