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Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) Helps Congress Green Up

House of Representatives Now Using 100% Post Consumer Waste Recycled Paper

Takoma Park, MD – The U.S. House of Representatives, with the help of New American Dream's Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN), is taking a step to significantly cut its energy consumption and save forest resources by switching from copy paper made from virgin wood to New Leaf's 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper. Perry Plumart, Deputy Director of the House's Green the Capitol Office, worked with RPN to help him determine the greenest choice for the House of Representative's enormous paper demand.

Some **environmental savings** from the switch to 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper:

- **29,400 trees**
- **3.5 million gallons of water**
- **4.9 billion BTU's of electricity**
- **392,000 lbs of solid waste**
- **773,500 lbs of carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas)**

The House uses roughly 14,000 cases of copy paper each year. At 5,000 sheets per case, Plumart realized there could be an enormous environmental upside to converting to a preferably made product. "Copy paper is used in every office in the House of Representative to a sum of more than 70 million sheets of paper per year," reports Plumart. "The Center for a New American Dream's procurement program, RPN worked with us to help educate supply store and procurement staff that 100% post-consumer waste paper works just as well in printers and copiers as other less eco-friendly options. Our going green in the House actually works for our offices and means we can still meet our immense supply needs. RPN also provided us with the data analysis that demonstrates the long-term cost savings to government departments and the positive environmental impacts of making that shift to more responsibly made products."

RPN is a national network of procurement-related professionals dedicated to socially responsible and environmentally sustainable purchasing. RPN helps organizations, government agencies, and corporations review their purchasing practices, create sustainable procurement programs, and implement green policies to meet their environmental goals. According to New American Dream Executive Director, Lisa Wise, "Helping the House of Representatives make smarter, more responsible choices benefits everybody. These kinds of changes just might lead to policy reform surrounding environmental issues and that's when we're going to see a real shift in the accountability practices beyond government by corporations across the board."

For more information, contact Tim Sanchez, Senior Marketing and Communications Director, Center for a New American Dream, 301-891-3683 or **tim@newdream.org**.

About The Responsible Purchasing Network: The Responsible Purchasing Network at the Center for a New American Dream is America's first national organization dedicated to helping institutional buyers identify and acquire socially and environmentally responsible products. A group of the country's leading purchasers has created programs and services that reduce the legwork and eliminate the guesswork from buying responsibly. The resources are available online at www.ResponsiblePurchasing.org.

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