

FOR ATTACHMENT TO
SA RESOLUTION AS
APPENDIX A

A survey and
research brief on
printing policy at
Cornell and
peer institutions
Feb 2018

The Cornell **Printing Report**

Let's look at the **numbers.**

Printing is an *inevitable* part of academics at Cornell.

98%

of students are or have been enrolled in courses that **require assignments to be printed out before submission**

And high printing costs and inaccessibility of Net-Print printers may be causing students to **buy printers instead.**

36% 24%

of students own or have owned a printer during their undergraduate years

of students who do not own a printer are **likely to purchase one** during their undergraduate years

... spending per printer a maximum of **\$350** and a mean of **\$85**

Students buy printers because...

54%

want an accessible printer

41%

want cheaper printing

And it is possible to ***reduce unnecessary printer purchases*** that cause environmental damage and financial burden.

77%

agree that they would *not* have purchased a printer if **Net-Print printing was cheaper**

51%

agree that they would *not* have purchased a printer if **Net-Print printers were more accessible**

91%

believe **Net-Print printing is expensive**

And research shows that they are **not wrong**.
Let's take a look at our peer institutions.

Out of

8 Ivy League schools



4 provide students with **free** printing credits,



5 charge students **less** for printing double-sided in B&W*



One goes **even further**.



Princeton allows **5,400 sides** of B&W free printing and **400 sides** in color and students can **ask for more when they run out**

It costs **\$0.18** to print a double-sided sheet of paper at Cornell in B&W, the **highest** among Ivy League schools that do not offer free printing credits.

*At Cornell, students don't save any money by printing double sided (\$0.09 per B&W side)

It should be noted that the **School of Industrial and Labor Relations** and the **School of Hotel Administration** provide their students with free printing credits. Some organizations like OADI offer free printing at Cornell.

But what about *sustainability*?



Cornell is **Gold-rated** in STARS, a program for advancing sustainability in higher education...

But **doesn't fare well** in the metric for office paper purchasing.

Because we spend little money on **FSC Recycled label paper**.

0.54/1.00

OP-14 STARS Sub-score

13.54%

=\$38,483.80

\$292,882

Princeton's spending on FSC Recycled label paper

On the other hand, **Princeton**, which provides students with 5,400 sides of B&W free printing and 400 sides in color, has a **higher sub-score**.

0.94/1.00

Princeton's OP-14 Sub-score

\$38,483

Cornell's spending on FSC Recycled label paper

What else did students say?

There should be a discount for **double-sided printing**.

We need printers for clubs and organizations **printing quarter-cards**.

I don't think it makes sense to charge prices per side as opposed to per page, because it **disincentivizes double-sided printing**.

Plotting fees for architecture students need to be subsidized.

The print system is **hard to configure** and a lot of freshman have trouble setting it up. We are actually having a printing issue right now as I type at work!

The author of this comment works at the **Tatkon Center** for First-Year Students.

There are no computer labs south of campus (in Cascadilla). This makes it very difficult for me to print out assignments due the next day or late at night. Freshman year, RPCC was very convenient. **There is no equivalent south.**

It would be convenient if there was a **clear, user-friendly list of printers** and their locations.

In all but one of my classes I am **required to print** 60 pages of reading.

I really **shouldn't have to print things** to begin with (particularly readings) for environmental reasons.

There should be printers available in **dorm buildings**.

The exorbitant costs of Net Print would actually, in the long run, **exceed the costs of buying a printer**. I would like to see the University provide data on where this money is actually going.

Join the movement for a better printing system at Cornell.

Share your opinions.
Subscribe to updates.
See what you can do.

CornellSA.com/netprint/andyou

Statistics shared in this survey and research brief are based on self-reported information from the 641 respondents of the online Undergraduate Printing Survey, shared through email and Facebook groups. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us.

Peer institution printing pricing research has been based on publicly available data on each institution's website, as of October 7th, 2017, when the first draft of this report was created.

Direct questions about this report to Representative Jaewon Sim (js2689), Freshman Representative on the Cornell University Student Assembly.