



**R**ecycling and  
**E**nvironmental  
**A**ction  
**P**lanning  
**S**ociety

# Greening Your Office

...one tip at a time!

We care about the environment and we know you do too. Your office is a great place to make little changes that make a big difference. Here are some ideas to help you do just that. Provided monthly by R.E.A.P.S., we hope they inspire you to create change!

## GREEN TIP #119:

March 2020

## Shift From Consumer to Conserver

The office has been a place where consumerism has always been at the very forefront of the modern workings of the office lifestyle. Supplies like paper, staples, tape, paperclips and various writing utensils are all items that are constantly used and quickly disposed of after their initial use. This creates a huge amount of waste that in turn creates numerous problems for the environment. A lot of these disposed of supplies that are disposed of simply ends up in our landfills when it can be reused for another purpose or recycled through the right channels. Change is a gradual process, but it is completely feasible! Here are a few ways that your office can implement to make the change from a consumer culture to a more environmentally friendly conserver culture.

### Buy for the long term investment

- One of the easiest ways to start reducing unnecessary office waste is to make a switch to buying office supplies that are of greater quality and produce less waste. These products may cost more money in the short term, but looking at the long term investment, these supplies can last exponentially longer, cut down on waste that would end up in our landfill and another way to save you money.
- Supplies can include but are not limited to:
- Staple Free Stapler (\$16) v. Traditional Stapler (\$8)
- Paper Tape Roll (\$19) v. Packing Tape Roll (\$5)
- Recycled Pack of Paper (\$18) v. Multi Purpose Pack of Paper (\$5)



Items were compared on Amazon.ca to ensure accurate and consistent prices were compared.

### Don't buy new zero waste products for the sake of having them, first use what you already have

- As a society, we have become prone to buying the newest products while throwing out perfectly usable older products in their place. This is the throwaway culture and this is something that we need to distance ourselves from as soon as possible.
- While it is important to change our consumer habits, this does not mean you should get rid of perfectly usable supplies in favour of greener alternatives. By using what you already have first you are helping create less waste.
- Being a conserver as opposed to a consumer means that you should use it up or wear it out until you absolutely need something new to replace it. Better yet instead of buying new once the old no longer works, if you can borrow that is also a fantastic environmental option!



Do you have any questions or suggestions? Call or email us at [green\\_solutions@reaps.org](mailto:green_solutions@reaps.org)!

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