



Recycling and
Environmental
Action
Planning
Society

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 #33:

January 2013

Suzuki's Waste Reduction —Part 3

Reduce, reuse and recycle! Canadians manage to generate more than 30 million tonnes of solid waste each year, and industrial, commercial and institutional sources account for about half of that. This part 3 of a 3-part article about how you can make changes to reduce the amount of waste produced by your office.

TOWARDS DEEP TRANSFORMATION

- Contract an environmental consulting firm to conduct a waste assessment or audit of your workplace practices.
- Ask food service vendors and caterers to meet your standards — e.g. aluminum containers instead of plastic, and reuseables instead of disposables, etc.
- Seek out end users for the stuff you don't want — schools, charities, food banks. Your trash may be their treasure.
- Organize an office 'bee' to find what you might need without making new purchases: turn fabric remnants into napkins or office couch cushions, collect scrap lumber to construct patio furniture, and mine thrift stores and co-workers' basements for reuseables.
- Are you near a park that could use a little less litter? A shoreline that needs a clean-up? What about the sidewalk in front of your building? Get a team together and get to it! You'll be a model of good citizenship for your clients, neighbours and visitors.
- Stock your office kitchen with reusable items for staff to borrow and return: travel mugs for offsite meetings or for getting coffee in the neighbourhood, and cloth bags to tote stuff home or grab groceries at the end of the day.
- Set up an office collection depot for recyclables that may be a challenge to home pick-up programs, such as Styrofoam, batteries, cell phones and CFLs.
- Check with your municipality (or our Waste Reduction Directory on our website) for drop off destinations.



Text from: http://www.davidsuzuki.org/publications/downloads/2009/dsaw_toolkit_web.pdf

Do you have any questions or suggestions? Call or email us at green_solutions@reaps.org!

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