



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 #64:

August 2015

Recycle Your Ink Cartridges

In an office environment, ink cartridges are often used up and disposed of on a very regular basis. The technology that printers use relies on toner or cartridges getting replaced frequently, particularly if there is a large number of people in the office with more than one shared printer.

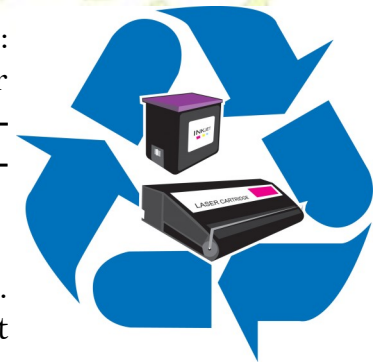


It is important to note the damage on the environment and burden on the landfills that ink cartridges cause. The plastic container, as well as the contaminants within the ink, are harmful.

Additionally, producing an ink cartridge takes a great amount of resources. The plastic container, the ink itself, and the packaging it comes in comes at consequence to our environment as well. Often, these resources would be better allocated to other products. For a standard toner cartridge, about 3.7 litres of oil are required to manufacture the plastic.

There is a process to recycling a cartridge: Each cartridge is sorted by type, followed by an inspection stage for old or worn out parts. Then each cartridge is rebuilt, hand-tested, filled with toner, and then resold. Often times, they are either resold online, or the recycler resells them under their own brand name.

Ink cartridges can be recycled at many locations and participating retailers. Often times, this is the most cost-effective solution of disposal as well. It cannot be understated that recycling and reusing any product is good for the wallet as well as good for our planet. The most environmentally friendly method of this is to refill and reuse ink cartridges. If this is not feasible, recycle cartridges at a participating retailer if disposing is necessary.



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