



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 #69:

January 2016

Buy Clothes for Work Second-Hand

Happy New Year! In light of all the wonderful festivities of the holiday season, it can be easy to leave out environmental considerations. If you're looking for pieces to accentuate your holiday work wardrobe but you're feeling strapped for cash, why not check out the local used clothing or second hand store? Reducing consumption of new clothes can help save precious natural resources.



Even if you can't find an entire outfit that is work appropriate from second hand, you can supplement an outfit with a second hand piece and look good while helping the environment. Buying new clothing can take a toll on the environment as it requires new resources to create the garments. Included in that resource use cost is the labour needed to grow and upkeep resources including cotton and other fibres. As well, it requires a large amount of water to produce clothing; it requires 2,700 litres to produce the cotton for a t-shirt! As well, a lot of new clothing is mass produced in factories in areas like China. Problems like child labour and poor working conditions contribute to worldwide inequality. As well, clothing has to be shipped a very long way, which adds to greenhouse gases.

Another way to look your best without adding to environmental damage is to take your damaged shoes to a shoe maker for a fix rather than throw them out and buy new ones. You can also extend the life of your clothing by getting your clothing repaired by a tailor (or fixing it yourself!) and wearing your clothes a second or third time before washing. One load of washing uses 150 litres of water! These tips will allow you to prevent your old clothes and shoes from ending up in a landfill, and maybe support a local shoe maker or tailor. Not to mention you'll look your best!



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

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