



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 #78:

October 2016

Earth-friendly furnishing

If you're in the market for new office furniture, think eco-friendly.

Furnishing your office with sustainable furniture doesn't have to be expensive (in fact, it might save you some money), but it does make a difference! The easiest and most cost-effective method for furnishing your office is looking for second-hand office furniture. Gently-used desks, chairs, tables, and shelving units can all be sourced from local thrift stores or businesses that are closing, moving, or undergoing renovations of their own.

However, if second-hand isn't an option, or isn't turning up the kind of furniture that you're looking for, you can still source sustainable new furniture.

Eco-friendly furniture tips:

- Look for furniture made from recycle materials (e.g. office chair with recycled plastic or metal parts)
- Look for wood furniture from companies that harvest sustainably (e.g. Forest Stewardship Council certified)
- ... or use reclaimed materials! (e.g. reclaimed barn wood or driftwood)
- Opt for furniture that can be disassembled and recycled at the end of its life (e.g. Cradle 2 Cradle certification, which ensures that products are designed from conception to be easily and sustainably recycled)
- Avoid products treated with synthetic substances like formaldehyde or flame retardants that offgas (or release into the air) toxic chemicals.
- Finally, buy durable, timeless furniture that won't need to be replaced in the near future!



As a final note, reminder to donate your gently used furniture to second-hand stores, local schools, or small local businesses or non-profits, rather than taking it to the landfill.

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