



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 #79:

November 2016

Casual Fridays all week

If an office-casual dress code would be appropriate in your work environment, consider revamping your current office dress code to allow for “casual Friday” attire all week. While this tip may not be obviously green, relaxing your office dress code actually benefits the environment in at least two ways:

Reduces air pollutants associated with dry-cleaning:

Dry cleaning relies on chemical solvents, rather than traditional water and soap, to remove dirt and stains from clothing. These chemical solvents are typically a form of perchloroethylene, which is sometimes referred to as PCE or PERC. PERC is classified as a carcinogenic, and must be handled as a hazardous waste and very carefully managed by dry cleaners to ensure that it does not contaminate any drinking water sources. PERC can also contribute to smog, as it reacts with other volatile organic carbon substances in the air to produce a visible air pollutant.



Given that PERC poses such a serious risk to our health as well as the environment, many states or countries are in the process of banning the use of PERC. Until then, however, most dry cleaners still use PERC. Therefore, allowing your team to wear clothing that does not need to be dry cleaned cuts down on air pollutants entering the atmosphere! (As a bonus, it'll save you and your team some money on those dry cleaning bills.)

Allows for seasonally-appropriate clothing, reducing the need for a perfectly regulated office temperature:



An office-casual dress code allows staff to dress in warmer clothes (and extra layers) in the colder season, and allows them to wear lighter fabrics in the warmer seasons. Since your staff will naturally tailor their clothing to the weather, given the option, your office does not have to maintain a consistent temperature year-round. Instead, turn down your thermostat a degree or two in the winter, and turn down the AC a degree or two in the summer! Your staff probably won't even notice the change, since they'll already be dressing for the temperature changes. Your heating bills (and carbon footprint) certainly will, though!

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