

How to Make your Business Greener

Here are some ideas on how you could make your business more eco-friendly and do your bit to help the environment.

Electricity & Power:

- Get an energy audit to find out how you could reduce usage
- Turn off computers and lights when they're not being used
- Upgrade to more efficient equipment
- Switch to laptops (they use up to 70% less energy than desktops)
- Make sure processes are as efficient as possible
- Improve insulation
- Use energy efficient light bulbs
- Turn down the heating or air-conditioning
- Could you use solar energy or wind energy?

Paper:

- Print and photocopy on both sides
- Go digital and discourage printing documents unless necessary
- Send electronic invoices, statements and quotes
- Buy paper with a high recycled content
- Reduce packaging
- Stop sending junk mail

Recycling:

- Encourage employees to recycle waste by putting recycling bins around the office
- Re-use paper if only one side has been used
- Re-use packaging
- Introduce a policy to buy sustainable or recycled products

Travel & Transportation:

- Take public transport
- Encourage carpooling
- Give employees incentives to cycle to work
- Speak on the phone or teleconference instead of travelling
- Work from home
- Buy hybrid company cars
- Use low-emission trucks to transport goods



Donations and Support:

- If your company gives money to charity, choose an environmental charity. If not, maybe you should start!
- Support local green initiatives
- Offset your carbon footprint

Conclusion:

Some of these tips will not only help the environment, but may also help you save money by reducing your bills and overheads. There are also certain tax breaks and financial incentives in place for going green. If necessary, you should include "going green" in your mission statement, so all your employees are aware of what you're trying to achieve. You should try to get employees involved by asking them for ideas about how to reduce waste and creating a team to lead your company's eco-efforts.