

Top Ten Tips for Easy Green Business Solutions

- ① **EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT** – Engage your employees in your green vision. Create efficiency goals and make it fun and inclusive by celebrating your success. How can you measure your savings? How can your green mission enhance your community or better serve your customers? Get ideas and input from your employees and they will embrace your new goals.
- ② **MEETINGS VIA TELECONFERENCING** – While some face-to-face meetings may be essential – teleconferencing is a great way to save travel time and expenses.
- ③ **CLEAN GREEN** – Your supply cabinet may house some of the most powerful toxins on the market – and in large quantities! Swap out harsh chemicals for non- or less-toxic equivalents. It's better for your indoor air quality, better for the great outdoors!
- ④ **TURN OFF LIGHTS & CHANGE TO LED LIGHT BULBS** – First – can you make use of free, healthy natural light by rearranging the workspace? Next, consider energy-efficient task lighting, as it tends to use less energy than ceiling lights. Can you employ motion-sensor lights in some areas, like toilets? Finally, be sure to turn off lights when leaving at night. Have energy saving tags on the lights to remind people and trigger their awareness. Swapping to LED lighting is definitely worth the investment. LEDs use far less energy and do not contain mercury and other toxic gases contained by incandescent and fluorescent lights. They are pricey upfront but will last about five times longer than other bulbs
- ⑤ **ENGAGE WITH NATURE IN YOUR BACK YARD** – If you have an area of concrete, think about pot plants or ways to encourage nature without messing the place up. If you have gardens or larger areas, think about how you can help the wildlife and wild flowers. Share your reasons with your customers and employees. Engage them too.
- ⑥ **POWER DOWN AT NIGHT** - Running the screensaver takes about the same amount of energy as other routine tasks – meaning many computers waste twice as much energy idling as working! Save thousands of watts per year by shutting down at the workday's end.
- ⑦ **SHARE A RIDE** - Can you carpool or take public transport? Even better – walk, ride a bike, or telecommute!
- ⑧ **DO BUSINESS WITH GREEN VENDORS** – Interview your vendors to find out about their sustainability efforts. If you use a printer, ask if they use recycled paper. Look for companies that use energy efficient vehicles and manufacturing plants that have practices in place to reduce their carbon footprint.
- ⑨ **MAKE RECYCLING CONVENIENT FOR EMPLOYEES AND CUSTOMERS** – When something is convenient, it is far more likely to get traction and acknowledgement. Your employees and customers will feel good if they can recycle but if they have to hunt it out.....that could have the opposite effect.
- ⑩ **BAN BOTTLED WATER** – Encourage employees to bring reusable water bottles or cups to work, instead of wasting all those paper cups from the water cooler. Don't forget mugs for coffee too! Either or both would make a great employee appreciation gift, too.