



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 #133:

May 2021

Office Composting

May 2 – May 8 is composting awareness week – a week dedicated to informing the public and increasing their awareness and knowledge of what composting is and why it is so important. What is composting? It is the process of breaking down organic materials such as yard waste and kitchen scraps by organisms such as bacteria, fungi, worms, and other beneficial insects, to accelerate the natural process of decay and produce a nutrient-rich material that can be used in gardens.

Even if you are not a gardener or landscaper, there are many reasons to compost. Composting reduces the volume of content disposed of in landfills, which thereby reduces the production of greenhouse gasses and pollution. By providing a naturally beneficial and nutrient-rich fertilizer, it reduces dependence on chemical fertilizers. These fertilizers are made of petroleum products, which pollute waterways, upset soil pH, harm biodiversity, and can increase greenhouse gasses. Additionally, sending your food and yard wastes to the compost instead of the landfill saves money on waste disposal, transportation, and processing.

To implement a composting system in your office, you will first need to assess if it will be feasible for our office space. Do you have room for a compost collection container? Where will your compost go? Is there a staff member willing to take it to their home composter, or can you partner with a local organization to collect it? Is your staff willing to learn about and participate in the composting program? Are you able to monitor what is being put in the compost and correct any errors? These are a few questions to consider as a business or office before beginning an office compost.

Once you have decided that an office compost will suit your space and that you have the resources to manage it, the next step will be to source a sturdy, appropriately-sized compost collection container that has a tight seal. Scope out the ideal spot for your office compost – perhaps in the staff kitchen near the other waste disposal containers. Finally, before you start to collect compost, inform staff of the new program, its protocols, and how to use (what goes in, what cannot go in) etc. Put up informational signage to remind staff and clarify procedures. Once you begin your compost program, keep track of how much waste you divert from the landfill, and make any changes necessary to keep the program running smoothly. Happy composting!



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

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