



REAPS
RECYCLING & 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 #148

August 2022

Rethink the Company Dress-code

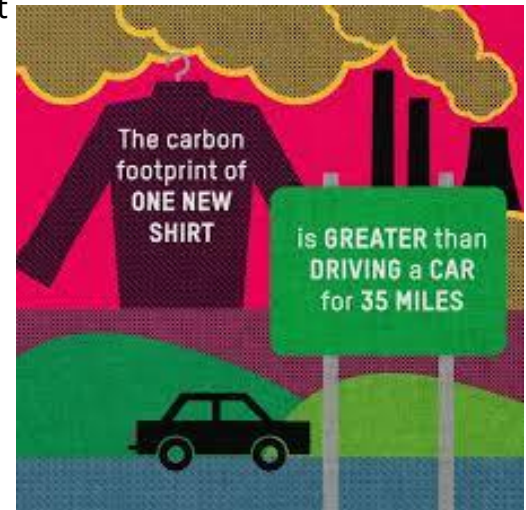
There are many benefits to relaxing company dress codes, for the environment and your wallets! Your office doesn't have to entirely abandon a professional dress code to benefit. Reevaluating when such attire is necessary can save money, resources, and reduce the risks of environmental contamination.

Ready, Set, Thrift!

Buying clothing second hand is the number one way for an individual to reduce the carbon footprint of their wardrobe. A relaxed dress-code gives workers more flexibility, making it more likely that they will find work appropriate attire in the aisles of a thrift store.

Reducing Consumption

If workers aren't required to wear professional clothing every day they won't need to buy or replace those items as quickly. This has the added benefit of allowing individuals to buy fewer, higher quality clothing items instead of relying on fast fashion.



DID YOU KNOW?

75% of laundry's total carbon impact comes from machine drying your clothes. Air drying is the most sustainable way to dry them. Another quick switch? Washing your clothes in cold water reduces your carbon impact by 10%

Source: Carbon study commissioned by independent research firm [Green Story Inc.](http://www.greenstoryinc.com)

The problem with Dry Cleaning

Professional clothing like suits, blazers and dresses often require dry cleaning. While it was once commonly believed that this process must be more environmentally friendly due to its limited use of water, it is now well documented that many of the solvents used during the process can contaminate groundwater if not properly disposed.

In addition to the risks of environmental contamination, the most common dry cleaning solvent, Tetrachloroethylene (PERC) can cause liver and respiratory system damage in exposed individuals. Most of these cases are occupational exposures, with the largest proportion coming from workers in the dry cleaning industry.

Casual clothing usually doesn't need dry cleaning and can be washed in cold water and air dried, both of which dramatically reduce the carbon footprint of a wardrobe!

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