



GREEN UP YOUR OFFICE

HOW TO CREATE A
SUSTAINABLE WORKPLACE



tru**space**

creating room
for success

The past few years have seen a sharp increase in environmental awareness. More people are doing their part to limit their impact on the environment.

When discussing these new practices, the terms that are most commonly used are “green” and “sustainable”. They are often used interchangeably and apply to a variety of elements. This includes the overall design of a workplace and the specific use of new technologies.

Learn more about these green practices and technologies and how they can help your business reduce its carbon footprint.



What is a Green Workplace?

Creating a green workplace can be achieved in a variety of ways. The application of this term means to incorporate green design elements during construction or renovation. These are elements that help to reduce the negative impact of the building on the environment.

Essentially, the overall goal of green building is to help limit the ecological footprint of the workplace. Not only does this apply to the construction and design of the building or offices, but to the overall life of the building. This is the sustainable part of green building.

With green building, resources are to be used as efficiently as possible. This has a positive impact on the environment and your employees. This is achieved by:

- Reducing damage to nearby biodiversity
- Conserving the use of water, air, and earth
- Offering a productive environment with natural lighting
- Reducing the use of material resources
- Incorporating energy efficient appliances

Environmental protection does not end with the construction of a building. It continues through the adoption of green practices. The purpose of this is to help the environment and the health of the occupants of the building.

**Sustainability includes
how you run your
business, and my
bottom line includes
how you treat your
people. Sustainability
starts with your staff.**

TOM DOUGLAS

What are the Benefits of a Green Workplace?

It has taken some time for businesses to understand the value of creating a green workplace. When these practices were first promoted, there was a belief that they had a high cost to implement without a positive return on investment.

Over the years, it has become easier to identify the tangible value of green building. It leads to a reduction in energy use, a more productive workforce, and a variety of additional benefits.

The savings on energy use can be substantial. By using green office interiors, businesses can reduce their energy bills by at least 25 percent.

This is only a small portion of the potential savings available through green building. Including additional green elements, such as natural lights, water recycling, and temperature control, energy costs can be reduced even further.

You can also enjoy an increase in the health and productivity of your staff. For example, studies have found that offering a green environment can lead to:

- A healthier workforce
- A reduction in employee sick leave
- An increase in work performance
- A boost to employee morale and satisfaction
- An overall increase in productivity

These advantages can offset the costs of building a green workplace. You will naturally notice a positive change in your daily operations. Further savings will come through a reduction in sick days per employee and overall sick leave costs.

Another advantage that is rarely considered is the ability to retain staff. By offering a healthier work environment, you should notice a reduction in turnovers. This results in fewer costs devoted to hiring and training new employees.

Businesses that adopt green policies and create a sustainable work environment are also seen in a favorable light by the general public. The combination of these advantages is hard to put an exact figure on. Though, there are measurable perks to having a green workplace.

In review, you can decrease energy consumption while increasing the overall productivity and satisfaction of your workforce. At the same time, you will be doing your part to protect the environment, which can lead to a positive company image.

What Can You Do to Incorporate Green Elements?

Any commercial or industrial business can benefit from the positive examples provided. Though, many businesses do not understand how to begin adopting these practices.

There are a variety of solutions available for businesses that are interested in doing their part to limit their environmental footprint. These solutions apply to both the construction of the building or offices and the way that the offices are used in the years ahead.

Here is an overview of some of the most commonly used green practices:

#1 – Green Building Practices During Construction

When a building is being constructed or renovated, contractors should do their best to reduce waste and the use of natural resources. This can be achieved by:

- Using recycled materials during construction
- Avoiding the ordering of excess materials
- Using efficient insulation to reduce heating and cooling costs
- Increasing natural ventilation in the design of the building
- Avoiding the use of materials that are known to have a harmful impact on the environment
- Increasing natural light in order to reduce the use of artificial lighting

These steps can have a tremendous benefit towards reducing the environmental impact of the construction process.



#2 – Reducing Waste and Energy Use in the Office

Another example of how to incorporate a green workplace is to reduce waste and energy use. This can be accomplished by using sensors to control lights, along with the use of energy efficient light bulbs. Other solutions include:

- Using recycled water in the restrooms
- Promoting water saving solutions in the cafeteria
- Adopting a recycling program to reduce paper waste
- Using rainwater storage options

Inside the office, your workforce can do their part to minimize the impact on the environment. These are mostly solutions that help to reduce waste, including the waste associated with water, paper, and other materials.

**The only way forward,
if we are going to
improve the quality of
the environment, is to get
everybody involved.**

RICHARD ROGERS

#3 – Using Energy Efficient Appliances

The appliances that are used within your offices also have an effect on the environment. By using energy efficient appliances, businesses can further improve their sustainable efforts. This can include efficient kitchen equipment, lighting systems, and even energy saving controls for computers and electronics.

#4 – Using Green Power

Along with energy efficient appliances, using green power can help provide an even greater reduction in energy use. Examples of renewable, on-site energy sources include solar power and wind power. In an urban environment, solar panels may be more acceptable, as wind power requires additional space.

#5 – Reusing Materials and Products

Throughout all of your business operations, from production to office work, there are ways to reuse materials and products. Begin considering how you can reuse these materials and products for future use, in order to provide an additional reduction in waste and the use of material resources.

#6 – Promote the Use of Green Transportation

Transportation is another area where you can help promote a healthier environment. By offering onsite storage, such as lockers and changing rooms, you can encourage employees to use other forms of transportation, such as bicycles. Promoting carpooling or public transport can also have a positive impact.

Your Business Can Take Part in the Green Movement

These are solutions that any business can adopt. Even if your building has already been constructed, it is not too late to begin incorporating green elements into your workplace. Review the solutions discussed and consider how they can be used in your work environment.

You now understand the basics of what it means to have a sustainable workplace. You have explored the benefits that it provides, including productivity gains. You have also learned more about the most commonly used green solutions. With this information, you are prepared to take part in the green movement.

Reduce your consumption of energy and material resources while improving the welfare of your workforce. Create a sustainable workplace and enjoy the benefits.



Truspace

Truspace is innovating the way office design build is being done throughout Canada. We define, design and create sophisticated workspaces, taking care of everything in the process, so you don't have to. The end result is a truly inspiring work space your business and your people deserve.

Our in-house team of professionals have extensive and in-depth knowledge of how good office design can reduce real estate costs, boost business performance and help you keep and attract key talent.

Whether you are starting from scratch or looking to transform your current workspace, we take the time to truly understand the needs of your business and staff.

Contact us today and learn how we can combine your ideas with our expertise to create an eye-catching office design your business and staff deserve.

Main Number Toll Free: 855.801.1156

Toronto

161 Bay Street, 27th Floor Toronto ON M5J 2S1
Phone: 647.694.1532

Edmonton

10180 101 Street, Suite 3400 Edmonton AB T5J 3S4
Phone: 780.801.1156

Calgary

144 4 Ave SW, Suite 1600 Calgary AB T2P 3N4
Phone: 587.287.2514

Vancouver

1500 West Georgia Street, Suite 1300 Vancouver BC V6G 2Z6
Phone: 778.800.1205



truspace

creating room
for success