

Improve Sustainability – Employers

Environmental Awareness

There are many things that employers can do to help the environment, for example:

- Recycle paper, toner, ink cartridges and unwanted electronics.
- Encourage employees to walk, cycle, car-share or use public transport – provide low-cost bicycle hire or set up a car sharing scheme.
- Company cars - consider diesel or hybrid electric fuel instead of petrol.
- Let some employees work from home some of the time.
- Let employees spend some company time participating in environmental volunteer projects.
- It isn't all about employees – encourage customers, clients and other visitors to recycle their rubbish when they're on-site, and avoid driving to your site if there are alternative ways to get there.
- Create and publish a company-wide environmental awareness policy and code of conduct.
- Nominate an environmental awareness and sustainability officer who will monitor sustainability initiatives and collect employee opinions and ideas on environmental awareness in the workplace.
- Don't put chemicals down drains – dispose of correctly. Some chemicals such as oil and bleach found in many workplaces can cause immense harm to the environment . As an example just one litre of oil can pollute one million litres of fresh drinking water.
- Waste products which are not disposed of properly will end up in landfill and may contaminate the land.
- Use low-flush office toilets (hippo) - Flushing toilets uses large amounts of water to flush away the waste. The waste then has to be processed so it can be disposed of safely without polluting the water supply.
- Protect pipes against cold weather and monitor for leaks.
- Building and construction projects use up natural habitat and resources and generate waste. In fact building and construction projects generate over a hundred million tonnes of waste each year!
- Replace older, less energy efficient appliances with newer A rated appliances.
- Use energy saving light bulbs.
- Install renewable energy technology such as solar panels or ground heat pumps.
- Insulate the building and the hot water tank
- Install thermostatic valves on radiators
- Buy energy efficient appliances – look for an A rating.
- Only heat the premises when there are people there.
- Recycle all paper, plastic, glass and metal waste.
- Buy local, seasonal produce whenever possible instead of things that have been flown around the world.
- Don't buy or produce over-packaged products.