



Professional Development

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Straining Employees to Go Green Can Save Green

These days, going green has proved itself to be more than a just a passing fad. Tough economic times have shown us that conserving energy and going green can help us save money at home and in the workplace.

By working to improve the energy efficiency of our office buildings, businesses will improve their bottom lines and protect the earth's valuable resources at the same time

The energy used by commercial buildings and manufacturing plants accounts for almost half of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 50% of energy consumption nationwide, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency research.

Since it's where most Americans spend the majority of the day, the office is the one place where people can make the biggest impact by going green. Training employees to go green and save the company money can take time, but will pay off in the long run.

The first step to creating a green movement in your office is to set up teams of employees that are dedicated to the cause. Forming a diversified team with employees from all levels of the organization will ensure greater support and success of the green movement.

Schedule green team meetings to discuss which areas of the business are the least energy efficient and how each could be improved. Raise awareness throughout the office by sending emails, posting fliers and hanging posters with information on how the business is working to go green and what employees can do to help.

Hold in-office events, such as a brown-bag luncheon, to get more employees involved and informed. Try to find an energy expert either inside or outside of your organization to speak about ways everyone can work to save energy around the office.

Another simple way to get employees involved in your green efforts is to set up friendly competitions. Divide up the company by departments or teams and start a competition to see who can be the greenest team in the office.

Make sure the teams that show the biggest improvements receive environmentally-friendly prizes like reusable water bottles or coffee mugs. Publicly recognize employees' efforts by writing about it in the company newsletter or speak about it in company meetings.

With the right preparation and planning, [going green in the office](#) doesn't have to be a difficult process. By getting everyone involved, from upper management to sales associates, your company can start doing its part to conserve energy and cut down greenhouse gas emissions. Go ahead, go green and get started today.

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