

# Waste in the Workplace

By Sophie Monaco – Environmental Specialist

In the last couple of years waste and waste management have been key points of discussion, perhaps made even more prominent by the ‘War on Waste’ TV Show. Thanks to shows like this people are beginning to think about where their products come from and where they end up. Implementing these small changes in the home or day to day life is something very achievable. But for businesses, getting active about waste can be a more challenging matter.

## Turning Wasteful into Waste-less

Effective waste management within business not only has beneficial outcomes for the environment and human health but is beneficial for the business. Common waste generating activities in an office or business include:

- Paper and printer cartridges
- The packaging on incoming materials and orders
- Electronics
- Kitchen/lunchroom food scraps



Finding ways to reduce, re-use or find ‘greener’ alternatives can have huge benefits to a business, such as:

- Cost savings – don’t pay for what you don’t need
- Resource efficiency – get lean, turn the lights off if you aren’t in a room, go virtual
- Reputation – environmentally responsible image
- Employee satisfaction – that warm and fuzzy feeling

The suitability and benefits of waste management options will obviously depend on the nature and size of the business and the scale of application, but that’s not to say that there are no benefits.

## Getting the Team Involved

There are a number of activities and actions that can be undertaken within a business to assist with waste management and getting the team or office thinking about waste. One of the first activities to complete should focus on knowing what your wastes are. This could involve a simple look in the bin to a more detailed waste audit. Another great option is to develop a ‘green team’ or ‘waste coordinator’ who can help encourage others to be responsible for and try to reduce their waste generation in the office.



## Clean Up Day Events

There are a couple of events coming up on the calendar for Clean Up Day, which are perfect for getting involved in waste management while team building. Some of these events center around groups of people registering and volunteering time to collect rubbish on a defined day. While others can set a challenge for the office or team relating to waste management.



Alternatively, there are a couple of events coming up on the calendar which are perfect for getting involved in waste management while team building. Some of these events center around groups of people registering and volunteering time to collect rubbish on a defined day. While others can set a challenge for the office or team relating to waste management. Check out the websites to find out more information and register.

- [Business Clean-up Day on Tuesday 26th February 2019](#)
- [Clean-up Australia Day on Sunday 3rd March 2019](#)
- [Plastic Free July](#)
- [World Clean-up Day on the 21st September 2019](#)

The team at Integrate Sustainability is passionate about the environment and can provide advice, assistance or recommendations to help you meet your waste management goals. Contact us today to tackle waste together.

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■ environment ■ safety ■ community

## Handy Links

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