

Forming a Green Team

Do you wish your workplace would recycle more? Or maybe you'd like to incorporate more reusable options (such as mugs or utensils) instead of disposable ones. It can seem overwhelming to try to accomplish incorporating more eco-friendly office practices on your own, but it becomes easy to do when you have a green team with you! A green team is a great way to use sustainability best practices at work and it's fun to connect with other employees about an issue you care about! Luckily there are lots of resources out there to help you get started.



Talk to Your Boss

Having your boss' support is crucial to the success of the green team. If they seem reluctant, remind them that:

- Green practices are good PR for the brand
- Reducing, reusing and recycling save the company money
- [Research shows](#) employee retention and productivity increases when green practices are implemented
- Check out the resources below for more research

Start Small

It's best to start with a small group of volunteers and set achievable goals. Once everyone sees the team's success, the movement and the team can grow. The EPA has a great [green team checklist](#) that will grow with you as you accomplish your goals.

Include Custodial Staff

All your hard work can be undone quickly if the custodial staff is not aware of your green practices. Recycling may get thrown in the trash or put in plastic bags if they don't know there has been a policy change or new initiative started. Custodial staff are a critical piece of the green team because they're the ones who implement many of the team's goals. Giving them a seat at the table is more effective than simply instructing them on policy changes. Custodians see a lot—use this valuable information to gain insight as to what people are recycling incorrectly or throwing away that could have been recycled.

Make It Fun

- Send or post funny recycling memes around the office. You don't have to create your own either, we have some recycling ones already created for you to use [here!](#)
- Incorporate [environmental trivia](#) into staff retreats or in-service trainings
- Give away prizes for sustainable behaviors like bringing your own water bottle, recycling correctly, sending files instead of printing, etc.

Other Resources

[Every Day Should Be Earth Day In Your Office](#)

[Five Benefits of Embracing Sustainability](#)

[The Benefits of Creating a Sustainable Workplace](#)

[Buisness.com: Saving Money While Saving the Environment](#)

[Cultivating Capitol: How to Start a Green Team For Your Business](#)

[EPA: Energy Star Green Team Checklist](#)

[Harvard: 10 Tips for a Successful Green Team](#)