

Kate's

top 5 tips

For Greening your Office



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Kate Costanza, MulvannyG2's Sustainability Coordinator, spends her days finding ways for the built and natural environment to coexist. She applies her knowledge in energy efficiency strategies and the LEED certification process to retail and corporate projects at MulvannyG2. Today Kate shares easy ways you can green your office creating a healthier indoor environment and even cutting costs!

1

Mood lighting. Adding efficient individual task lighting and reducing overhead lights to an ambient level, not only saves energy and money, but allows the individual occupant to control their own space. A win win, since lighting can take up as much as 25% of the building's operating budget.

2

Urban jungle. Furniture, paint, carpet, and electronic equipment can make the air in our office more toxic than standing next to a Los Angeles freeway. Create an urban jungle by surrounding yourself with plants that are effective absorbers of these harmful pollutants including spider plants, Boston ferns, rubber plants, and palms.

3

Disconnect power. Unplug your cell phone battery charger after your phone has been fully charged. Even if your phone is disconnected from the charger it will continue to use energy. Use a power strip as a main "turn off" switch when done using office equipment at night to completely disconnect the power supply.

4

Energy hogs. Switch off your computer monitor while away from your desk especially during the lunch hour or extended meetings. A computer in "screensaver mode" uses almost as much energy as it does when it's being used. Also explore the power settings on your computer and monitor.

5

Green Team. Create a Green Team of dedicated employees within your organization to help educate and motivate your staff to reduce office waste and create a more energy efficient workplace. For help starting a Green Team [CLICK HERE](#).

References:
EnergyStar.com and USGBC.com

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