

The background features abstract, overlapping shapes in teal, pink, and dark green. In the top right, a teal shape contains several pink dots. In the bottom right, a dark green shape contains several blue dots. The overall style is modern and minimalist.

Sustainability Strategy

yc.

PURPOSE

Reduce waste. Recycle more. Be mindful.

The following proposal for Your Creative aims to bring us closer to achieving a more sustainable and mindful work culture, through reducing our waste and recycling more. The five modest objectives detailed below outline how we can accomplish this in a straightforward and effective manner.

OBJECTIVE 01:

Composting

To reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill. When organic waste decomposes in landfill it generates methane, which is a more potent greenhouse gas than CO₂.

Strategy

To have a compost bin at work where we can throw our organic scraps. The bin will be emptied out every Friday to avoid attracting fruit flies and other unwanted pests.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of organic material that can and cannot be composted.

Compostable

- Fruit scraps
- Egg shells
- Plant scraps
- Tea bags (without staples)
- Coffee grind

Non-Compostable

- Cooked food scraps
- Onion/garlic
- Plastic

Cost

A small compost caddy bin from Kmart: \$5-10

OBJECTIVE 02:

Recycling

Most of the plastic we use can be recycled, plastic with HDPE/LDPE letters or a triangle with a number () at the bottom of the container indicates that it can be recycled.

Australia's contamination rate is between 6-10%, any plastic that contains above 6-10% contamination does not get recycled and subsequently ends up in landfill.

Recycling contamination is when incorrect items/materials are put into the system, or when the right items/materials are prepared in the wrong way (i.e. food residue in containers, recyclables in plastic bags).

Strategy

In order to lower our contamination rate, plastic containers and items need to be rinsed thoroughly before being disposed of in the recycling bin. Most containers will have oily residue that is impossible to clean with cold water, so rinsing the container with warm/hot water is needed, to remove or minimise the oil.

Additionally, we need to be more vigilant in ensuring that the items we put into the recycling bin are recyclable.

Below is a list of things that can be thrown into the recycling bin.

Recyclable (after rinse)

- Lids of take away coffee cups
- Yoghurt container
- Soup container
- Cans
- Glass
- Juice bottles

Non-Recyclable

- Coffee cups
- Glad wrap
- Plastic bags (unless stated otherwise)

Cost

None

OBJECTIVE 03:

Electricity

From lights to aircon, kitchen appliances and computers, being mindful of our electricity usage is of the utmost importance and is an easy way to reduce our carbon footprint.

Strategy

Making sure the aircon, lights and computers are turned off at the end of each day.

Not filling up the kettle full when preparing 1-2 cups for tea.

Cost

None

OBJECTIVE 04:

Printing

We use toners for our printer and the cartridge can be recycled in participating retailers.

Strategy

Allocating a box or container for empty toners to go in and once it is full it can be dropped off to Officeworks where they have designated recycling bins for printing cartridges.

Cost

None

OBJECTIVE 05:

Outside Consumables

Most cafes and restaurants provide single use plastic with their food and drinks (such as straws, cups, cutleries). For the most part, these plastic utensils cannot be recycled so it is advisable to use the cutlery and dishes available in the kitchen.

Disposable coffee cups are amongst the worst offenders, as only the lid can be recycled.

Strategy

There are a few ways we can minimise these unnecessary contributions to landfill. Bringing a BYO coffee cup such as a KeepCup or mug when buying a coffee is an excellent and easy way to help.

Using plates or existing containers we have in the kitchen for take away food is another great way to reduce our plastic waste, along with opting for no straw or using the reusable straws when buying drinks.

Cost

None

Strategy

Having a coffee press (plunger) available at work is another proven way to reduce the amount of waste we produce from coffee we buy from outside sources. Plus, coffee grounds are compostable!

Cost

Coffee press 6 cups from Kmart: \$8
Coffee ground: \$15-20 (depending on volume)

Conclusion

By implementing these strategies we can bring ourselves closer to being a more sustainable workplace. By reducing our waste, we help our environment. By recycling more we give our planet a better chance.

We can be proud of the steps we have already taken toward environmental sustainability, however there is still much to be done. The recommendations in this proposal are intended to provide some inspiration and direction for our future efforts, and highlight the fact that being more environmentally mindful is low-cost and low effort.



Thank you

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