

Zero Waste Office

This is a touchy subject because you usually need buy-in from others in your office. Maybe if we all start showing others different ways of doing things and how it saves money for the office, then things will begin to shift. Here are some ways to Zero Waste your office.

Office Supplies:

- Refillable Expo pens - yes you read that right!
- Refillable ink pens - they save money
- Recycled paper wrapped in paper
- Better yet, find ways to reduce paper waste
- Recycle paper waste
- Use reusable paper clips instead of staples
- Recycled binders, paper notebooks, dividers
- Biodegradable adhesive bandage strips
- Small office with an ink jet, get refillable ink jet cartridges
- If you must use those sticky arrow tabs, make sure they are paper and not plastic.
- Pencil highlighters
- Use masking tape instead of plastic tape

In the kitchen/ette:

- Reusable towels, rags
- Reusable cups, mugs, silverware, plates, bowls (inexpensive at a thrift store)
- Reusable everything!
- Buy a coffee pot and kick the Keurig, or at least get refillable pods
- Get a water stand for a 5 gallon jug instead of water bottles
- Bring your own reusable everything
- Pitch in to have some staple items in the fridge so packets of condiments aren't needed
- Have a compost bin

Keep non-toxic and zero waste cleaning supplies handy so others use them. Have a rotating calendar where everyone participates in washing the towels/rags and dumps the compost bin at home. Oh and print double sided even if you have to learn how to do it on a machine that doesn't do it automatically. Have recycling bins as many places as possible.

Those are just some ideas. Make it a game to see who can create the least amount of trash for the week. It's about finding ways to encourage others to participate. Make it as easy as possible.