



Greening To-Do List

Tenants

If you are a tenant in a commercial building and you want to green your premises, here are a few ideas.

First, it's a good idea to review your lease to find out just what changes are permissible.

- Apply solar film if you have heat-loading from south-facing windows, or buy thermal drapes to keep heat in during the winter and heat out during the summer.
- If you can change flooring, opt for certified natural or renewable products.
- If you choose carpet, look for a green carpet that is made with recycled material, is recyclable and offers low emissions.
- Purchase used furniture, or new furniture with low emissions and high recycled content.
- Choose duplex (double-sided) printing on recycled or FSC paper, and share printers.
- Find ways to reduce water consumption, such as installing low-flow fixtures.
- Use green cleaning products and zero- or low-VOC paints to protect indoor air quality.

If you pay utilities, aim to optimize their use and lower your costs:

- Change your light bulbs from incandescent to compact fluorescent and you can cut your lighting costs by a third.
- Find ways to reduce water use, and turn down the temperature on your water heater.
- Set refrigeration at the right temperature — even 1°C lower than needed can increase costs by 2-4%.
- Buy Energy Star-rated equipment.

- Use timers or Smart Strip power bars to turn off equipment when it's not in use.
- Use laptops rather than tower personal computers — laptops consume about 10% of the energy that a PC does.
- Manage energy costs by installing a programmable heating and cooling system.
- Ask your contractor about ways to recover heat, such as a drain-heat-recovery system, or heat-recovery ventilation system to recycle waste heat.

To reduce waste products:

- Recycle, and reduce the use of, disposable products.
- Consider setting up a composting unit or participate in the town's green-bin program.
- Use local green suppliers whenever possible.

For landscaping:

- Talk to your landlord about installing native drought tolerant plants to reduce water consumption and placing trees on the south/west side of the building to reduce heat loading and provide wind resistance.

Green Economy Centre of South Simcoe

*Going Green.
Growing Strong.*



Nottawasaga Futures

**For more information on greening as
a tenant, visit our website at
www.nottawasaga.com
or call 1-800-509-7554.**