

# Corporate Recycling

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Recycling involves processing used materials into new products in order to prevent waste of potentially useful materials. Recycling reduces the consumption of fresh raw materials (e.g. trees for paper), reduces energy usage, reduces air pollution (from incineration) and water pollution (from landfilling) and lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

Recycling is a key component of modern waste management and is the third component of the "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" waste hierarchy. You can recycle many different materials including paper, cardboard, glass, metal, plastic, textiles, and electronics.

## One tonne of recycled paper saves:

13 trees, 31,780 liters of water, 2.5 barrels of oil, 3 cubic meters of landfill space and 4,100 kWh of electricity - This represents a 64% energy savings, a 58% water savings, and 60 pounds less of air pollution! The 17 trees saved can absorb a total of 250 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air each year. Burning that same ton of paper would create 1500 pounds of carbon dioxide.

While great strides have been made internationally in the recovery of paper, including cardboard and newsprint, one area with the opportunity for improvement is the high

quality fiber found in offices.

In Gibraltar, against a background of increased environmental awareness, a growing number of businesses and organisations are looking for ethical, environmentally friendly and cost-effective ways to dispose of their waste paper and cardboard. Many companies now also require recycling services as part of an established environmental scheme such as the ISO 14.000 environmental management standard and now make a conscious effort to recycle as much as possible.

Do you find that you are throwing out bags and bags of shredded and waste paper? Need some help with all the empty cardboard boxes you end up with each month? Do your old archives need to be shredded? And have you also accumulated lots of old computer equipment, newspapers or old office furniture? Would you like to

dispose of these waste items in a socially responsible way?

In Gibraltar, many companies who have chosen to introduce a comprehensive recycling scheme to their offices and warehouses have also found that it has increased awareness amongst employees. Having to recycle as part of everyday tasks has encouraged staff to use simple tricks like printing on both sides of each sheet of paper to reduce the amounts of waste generated in the first place. This then has the added bonus of saving your business money!

## How does a Comprehensive Recycling Package work?

Your offices will be equipped with white eco-friendly bins, designed to fit neatly into the work environment. The contents of the bins are then regularly collected by Environmental Officers and sent for recycling in Spain. The frequency of collections, the type and quantity of waste collected, and the pricing of the recycling service – depends on the needs of each individual business.

## Why should my Business Recycle?

In addition to obvious environmental benefits, there are also economic benefits to business recycling. Most notable in the last year, Recycling Companies have found that their clients are concerned about the impact that their waste may have on the environment and the local economy in Gibraltar. It is widely recognized that recycling helps control waste disposal problems - recovering paper for recycling can save communities money that they would otherwise have to spend on disposal.

Here in Gibraltar, with the recent credit crunch and so little space for landfill, and clients more concerned about climate change, recycling is becoming more and more important for businesses to remain competitive.

Eco-Friendly Advice - Reduce reuse or recycle paper and

cardboard

There are lots of innovative things you can do to help reduce your waste paper and cardboard – check out some of the tips below to get started.

## Reduce your Waste Paper:

- use double – sided copies to reduce paper
- replace paper towels with hand dryers
- send emails to save paper
- don't print emails unless necessary
- reminders on printers and photocopiers to print double-sided

## Reuse your Waste Paper:

- convert scrap paper into memo pads
- reuse incoming boxes for outgoing deliveries
- reuse envelopes for internal use
- donate old magazines to libraries, hospitals, doctors surgeries etc
- reuse shredded paper for packaging or as bedding for pets

## Recycle your Waste Paper and Cardboard:

This includes paper such as newspaper, glossy magazines, junk mail/flyers, shredded paper, letters, phone books, envelopes, and paper bags, cardboard packaging such as cereal, soap and tea boxes.

For every tonne of paper recovered for recycling, approx. 3 cubic meters of landfill space are saved – this saves the taxpayer pounds!

