



McGEE

TOOL BOX TALK

Environmental Tool Box Talk – Sustainability

Talk given by:

Overview:

Introduction

Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In order to achieve sustainability as individuals, we should consider not only environmental protection, but also social responsibility and economic practice.

Increasingly companies and business are being asked to create long-term practices that do more to respect the environment, the well-being of employees and the prospects of future generations in the interests of sustainability.

How?

- Everyone has a part to play in a sustainable future. Even individuals supporting major construction projects can make a difference.
 - Office waste is a fact of life but there are ways you can help manage it better. First, by making sure that your office has clear access to waste recycling facilities. By following the waste hierarchy, you can reduce waste and re-use raw materials. You'll also be making your own contribution towards reducing cost and improving profitability.
 - Consider whether you can use less resources to produce your work – if you have to print, print double sided and in black and white as much as possible.
 - Energy efficiency is important to any business, open windows waste energy in the winter and hinder air conditioning units in the summer.
 - Switching off lights when rooms aren't in use will help to reduce your energy waste and costs. That also means IT equipment such as monitors, printers and projectors.
 - Wherever possible, try to use water responsibly and report any drips or leaks to your environmental or management team. Water efficient appliances go the extra mile to help reduce waste.
 - Sustainability also includes your personal wellness, so try to take short breaks away from your desk when you can. Your welfare is important to your organisation.
 - There are also many ways you can help sustainability before you even get to work. You can walk or cycle as well as only travelling when you have to using carpooling or public transport.
 - Hazards don't just exist on construction sites. Health and safety in your own environment is important too. Consider how you lift heavy objects, be aware and report any trip hazards and take care whilst moving up and down stairs. Be sure to report any near misses to help actively work towards a better working environment for everyone
 - Sustainability doesn't end at the office, getting involved in community projects you can transform your local area. If you have any ideas as to how your organisation can become more sustainability, then speak to a member of the environmental team.
- **Remember, even small steps can make a big difference.**