

## Cut Costs Through Waste Reduction in the Workplace

Preventing waste and pollution in the workplace is a great way for businesses to cut costs, use resources more efficiently, boost productivity, reduce liabilities, and demonstrate environmental stewardship. For Minnesota businesses, there are a number of resources and programs that can be used to achieve waste reduction without spending a lot of time or money.



*Meeting Your Waste Material  
& Septic System Needs*

### Technical Assistance and Programs

**Minnesota Materials Exchange** | [www.mnexchange.org](http://www.mnexchange.org) or call (800) 247-0015

A free service that connects organizations that have reusable goods they no longer need with other organizations who can use them. Items ranging from tools and manufacturing equipment to furniture and office supplies are posted online for other businesses to take or purchase at a low cost. In 2011, the Materials Exchange Program helped divert more than 380,000 pounds of waste from landfills.

**Minnesota Retiree Environmental Technical Assistance Program (RETAP)** | Call Mike Vennewitz at (612) 781-1307

A program employing retired professionals who provide no-cost, non-regulatory energy and waste assessments to small and mid-sized businesses, institutions, and communities. RETAP differs from MnTAP (below) in that it focuses on non-manufacturing commercial and service sectors, making recommendations for reducing waste, pollution, and energy use. Average estimated savings for a client who implements RETAP recommendations is over \$11,000 per year.

**Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP)** | [mntap.umn.edu](http://mntap.umn.edu) or call (612) 624-1300

An outreach and assistance program that helps companies develop strategies to reduce waste, maximize energy efficiency, prevent pollution, and save money. MnTAP can provide on-site visits, telephone assistance, or team facilitation services tailored to your industry's needs. The program also staffs interns who are placed at manufacturing or healthcare facilities to create waste or energy solutions. In 2012, MnTAP's program activities helped over 280 Minnesota businesses save a total of \$2 million through waste reduction, and energy and water conservation.

**Minnesota Waste Wise** | [www.mnwastewise.org](http://www.mnwastewise.org) or call (651) 292-4650

A nonprofit environmental consulting organization that helps businesses save money through waste reduction, resource conservation and energy efficiency. Waste Wise provides environmental sustainability assessments, waste sorts, workshops, sponsorship opportunities, among other services. They also offer ink cartridge and small electronic recycling for businesses and "Energy Smart," an energy conservation service that encompasses financial incentives, such as utility rebates and grants.

### Other Resources

**Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guide** | [www.rethinkrecycling.com/government/eppg](http://www.rethinkrecycling.com/government/eppg)

A guide with information on workplace products as well as considerations that go into purchasing them: environment and health, price, availability, performance, and specifications.

**Reduce Waste: If Not You, Who?** | [www.reduce.org](http://www.reduce.org)

A series of fact sheets on how to reduce waste in a variety of areas, including the workplace. Tips for the workplace include how to reduce office paper use, purchase green materials, or manage your building to improve environmental quality and health.

**"Source Reduction Now!" Manual** | Available at [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us)

A manual outlining the steps to prevent waste to substantially reduce waste and costs in a variety of organizations

*For more information, contact Mary McReynolds at [mcreynoldsm@stlouiscounty.gov](mailto:mcreynoldsm@stlouiscounty.gov) or call 800-450-0650*