



**THE OSSTFIFEESO**

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

**STARTER**

**AND**

**PROJECT KIT**



**The OSSTF/FEESO Environmental Advisory Work Group (EAWG)** was formed in 2008 with a mandate to offer advice to the Provincial Executive and to members on how the Federation can be more environmentally conscious in its activities on a daily basis.

## THE "STARTER KIT"

The following items are smaller, simpler items that you could purchase for your District / Bargaining Unit to get you started when it comes to a long term, sustainable approach to reducing your environmental footprint:

Item	Description
Cutlery, Plates and Glasses	Getting permanent cutlery, plates and glasses will reduce the use of disposable items  See your local retailer
Eco-Friendly Disposable Cutlery, Plates and Glasses	For some units and activities, disposable items may be the only option. There are bio-degradable choices out there  <a href="http://www.ecoproductstore.com">www.ecoproductstore.com</a>
Bird Decals	These go on your window to help prevent birds from flying into your windows  <a href="http://www.windowalert.com">www.windowalert.com</a>
Energy Efficient Light Bulbs and Fixtures	Depending on the type of fixtures you have, you can get more energy efficient light bulbs to save on electricity and costs  See your local retailer
Trees	Planting trees at your local office is one of the simplest of green initiatives you can do  <a href="http://www.yourleaf.org/backyard-tree-planting-program">www.yourleaf.org/backyard-tree-planting-program</a>
Plants	Adding plants to your office space can have a positive impact on air quality. Add water and enjoy  <a href="http://www.canadiangardening.com/plants/indoor-plants/how-houseplants-keep-you-healthy/a/29903">www.canadiangardening.com/plants/indoor-plants/how-houseplants-keep-you-healthy/a/29903</a>
Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products	To reduce chemicals that go into the environment, eco-friendly cleaning supplies are a simple way to help  <a href="http://www.ecologo.org">www.ecologo.org</a> <a href="http://www.safegreencleaners.com">www.safegreencleaners.com</a>
USB Memory Sticks	Reduce the use of paper at meetings by handing a Memory Stick to committee / Executive members to plug into their devices  See your local retailer
Programmable Thermostat	Having one of these at your office can reduce energy use significantly  See your local retailer

**To help Districts / Bargaining Units (D/BU)** to make their operations more environmentally friendly, the EAWG has put together a list of potential ideas that could be initiated at the D/BU level and items that could be purchased for your local office. In addition, these initiatives and purchases could be eligible for funding through Account #2065 – Environmental Initiatives. Refer to the OSSTF/FEESO Financial Handbook for funding details.

## LARGER PROJECTS

If the District or Bargaining Unit is already beyond the starter stage of going green, here are a few more advanced projects that you may want to consider implementing to be more environmentally friendly:

Item	Description
Energy Star Appliance	Replace that old fridge or dishwasher with a more energy efficient model. How about a coffee maker that uses a carafe instead of a hot plate? <a href="http://www.energystar.gov">www.energystar.gov</a>
Vermi-Composters	With so much food waste at meetings, here is a clean way to reuse it and turn it into rich soil for your office or for members <a href="http://www.cathyscomposters.com">www.cathyscomposters.com</a>
Bee Hives	Successfully used at 60 Mobile Drive, an opportunity to improve the local environment and get some honey too <a href="http://www.ontariobee.com">www.ontariobee.com</a>
Rain Barrels	With metered water in most communities, this is a great way to reuse water for outside your office <a href="http://www.rainbarrel.ca">www.rainbarrel.ca</a>
Energy Audit	Bring in a local organization or company to take an energy use audit of your building to see where you can lower energy costs



## **GENERAL RESOURCES**

### **Ontario's Energy Efficiency Resource and Funding Guide**

[www.mei.gov.on.ca/en/pdf/conservation/energy\\_efficiency\\_funding.pdf](http://www.mei.gov.on.ca/en/pdf/conservation/energy_efficiency_funding.pdf)

### **Save on Energy Efficiency Tips and Tools**

[www.saveonenergy.ca/Consumer/Efficiency-Tips---Tools.aspx](http://www.saveonenergy.ca/Consumer/Efficiency-Tips---Tools.aspx)



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