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# Supply Chain



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## Going Green

It's good for the environment, your customers, and your bottom line. Going green is not just the latest trend, but a viable business and economic reality. Going green results in cost savings, productivity gains, increased regulation and consumer satisfaction. From greening the supply chain to making small but significant changes in your own workspace, there are countless ways you as a business owner can help the environment.

### Greening the Supply Chain

Companies who are greening the supply chain are those that insist on a certain level of environmental responsibility from their suppliers and vendors. While there isn't a cookie cutter approach to becoming greener, you can take many steps now to reduce your carbon footprint and make a positive impact on our environment.

Ask your suppliers to research alternative materials, product and equipment

Provide incentives like long-term contracts or shared savings to encourage your suppliers to go green

Put your own company's environmental policy in writing and provide suppliers with reasonable deadlines to meet those requirements

Seek out companies with certifications that guarantee best environmental practices

Choose vendors who use reusable packaging that can either be used for your product or returned to the supplier

Encourage suppliers who are environmental leaders or are certified/licensed to educate the industry on their practices and pass the same positive environmental information on to your customers

### What can your business do?

Evaluate your own business as the final link in the supply chain and see where changes can be made - efforts both big and small are equally important.

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Identify your current carbon footprint to see where energy is being wasted; reduce energy and water consumption wherever possible

Reduce overhead lighting and switch to energy-efficient bulbs

Refuse to purchase products made with substances not acceptable to your company's environmental policy

Offset unavoidable carbon emissions through a credit-trading program

Discover new ways to take back and recycle or refurbish end-of-life items or packaging

Choose Energy Star certified office equipment

### **LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design**

LEED Canada is a market-based rating system designed to facilitate and certify higher energy and environmental performance of buildings and communities. The prerequisites for certification include sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality. A rapidly growing number of organizations are incorporating LEED certification into their environmental policies. Whether you are a builder wishing to become LEED certified or would like to learn how this program can benefit your business visit [www.cagbc.org](http://www.cagbc.org) for information.

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