



NEWSLETTER

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Going Green: How Technology Can Help You Reap the Benefits of Sustainability

Sustainability is a practical strategy any small or midsize business can adopt to save money, improve efficiency and boost employee well-being. The DOE says that energy-efficient systems can cut usage by up to 75%, and greener workplaces have been shown to increase productivity and reduce sick days by 30%. Beyond cost savings, sustainability attracts eco-conscious clients and enhances your brand's reputation. But you don't need to be a green-certified building to get the benefits of sustainability. Here are a few simple ways to leverage modern technology to go green in your business.



1

Upgrade To Energy-Efficient Hardware

One of the easiest ways to make your business more sustainable is by switching to energy-efficient devices. ENERGY STAR-certified laptops, monitors and servers use significantly less power than older models. For example, an ENERGY STAR-certified computer uses about 25% less energy than standard equipment, making it a smart upgrade for your wallet (and the planet). Tools like smart power strips can also reduce energy waste from devices left on standby, and energy-efficient printers and copiers can cut power usage during the workday.

2

Adopt Cloud Computing

Platforms like Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud or AWS enable businesses to store data and run applications on shared servers, reducing the need for on-site equipment. Cloud computing also supports scalability, allowing businesses to pay only for the resources they use. This consumption-based model minimizes waste while reducing the capital investment required for IT infrastructure. Many cloud providers are also committed to sustainability, powering their data centers with renewable energy to reduce carbon emissions further.

3

Implement Green IT Solutions

Green IT solutions, like virtualization and e-waste recycling, help businesses become more sustainable while optimizing operations. Virtualization allows companies to run multiple virtual servers on a single physical server, significantly reducing hardware requirements and energy consumption. When hardware needs replacing, e-waste recycling ensures that outdated equipment is disposed of responsibly. Many IT vendors and local recycling programs offer secure recycling services that protect sensitive data and prevent harmful materials from entering landfills.

4

Harness the Internet of Things (IoT)

IoT devices help businesses monitor and optimize energy use in real time. Smart thermostats like Nest adjust heating and cooling based on occupancy, saving up to 12% on heating and 15% on cooling annually. IoT-powered lighting systems also ensure lights are on only when needed, reducing waste in unused spaces.

5

Go Paperless

Going paperless is one of the easiest ways to reduce your business's environmental impact. Modern IT solutions, like digital invoicing systems and cloud-based document storage, eliminate the need for physical paper while improving efficiency. Tools like DocuSign enable businesses to handle contracts and forms electronically, saving time and resources. Businesses that still require some paper use should consider printers with duplex printing capabilities to minimize waste and use recycled paper products whenever possible.



6

Utilize Renewable Energy Solutions

Investing in renewable energy, such as solar panels, is a long-term strategy for sustainability. Solar-powered charging stations, for instance, provide a clean energy source for employees to charge their devices, reducing reliance on grid power. While installation costs can be high, tax incentives and rebates make renewable energy more accessible. Over time, these investments pay off in lower utility bills and enhanced sustainability credentials, which can attract eco-conscious customers and partners.

7

Encourage Sustainable Employee Practices

Technology can also encourage employees to adopt greener habits. Tools like Slack or Microsoft Teams reduce the need for unnecessary travel by supporting remote work and virtual meetings. You can also encourage employees to turn off devices or set them to energy-saving modes when not in use and even gamify sustainability by tracking energy savings and rewarding employees for eco-friendly behaviors.

Sustainability Is Good Business

By leveraging modern technology, like energy-efficient hardware, cloud computing and IoT solutions, you can lower operating costs, enhance efficiency and improve employee well-being. But these changes don't require a massive overhaul; even small steps, like going paperless or encouraging eco-friendly habits, can contribute to a healthier planet and secure a more resilient future for your business.

To learn more, call **RJ2 Technologies at (847) 303-1194** or email **marketing@rj2t.com**.

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Don't Leave For Spring Break Without Turning On These Powerful Security Features



Losing a smartphone can feel like losing a limb. We've all done it, and there's nothing more sobering than realizing that the seven-ounce device that holds everything from your personal photos and private messages to bank details is missing. With phone theft on the rise (in London alone, the BBC reports that a cell phone is stolen every six minutes) and digital threats growing daily, a stolen or lost phone isn't just an inconvenience – it's a panic-inducing risk to your privacy and security.

Fortunately, Apple and Google have rolled out robust security features to combat these threats, including Apple's Stolen Device Protection and Android Theft Protection. These tools can make your phone nearly useless to thieves and keep your data safe. So, before you head out on your well-deserved spring break, take a few minutes to check if these powerful features are enabled on your device. Note that some of these options are only available on the latest operating systems, so check that your phone is fully updated.

1. Turn On Stolen Device/Theft Protection

Apple's Stolen Device Protection makes stolen iPhones and iPads virtually worthless to thieves. This tool locks your device when it's not in a familiar location, preventing it from being reset or reused without your Apple ID credentials. To activate the tool, go to Settings > [Your Name] > Face ID & Passcode > Stolen Device Protection and turn it on. For Android users, enabling Theft Protection offers equivalent protection against theft. It even uses Google AI to detect when a phone has been snatched from your hand or bag and will automatically lock up. To turn it on, go to Settings > Google > All Services > Theft Protection.

2. Enable Advanced Data Protection

Apple provides end-to-end encryption for iCloud data, like photos, messages and backups, so only you can access your information. To enable it, users must update their devices to the latest iOS version, then navigate to Settings > [Your Name] > iCloud > Advanced Data Protection and follow the setup process. On Android, Google's Advanced Protection restricts access to sensitive data and blocks harmful software sources. To enroll, log into your Google account and enroll in the Advanced Protection program.

3. Use Passkeys And Biometric Authentication

Many apps and services now support passkeys, a cutting-edge security feature. For example, platforms like Google, Apple and Microsoft allow you to log in using biometric authentication (like Face ID or Touch ID) instead of a traditional password. This eliminates the risk of password theft, making your accounts more secure and easier to access. To enable passkeys, look for the option in your device's or app's security settings.

Recycle Your Assets and Plant a Tree

This month we are excited to introduce a new solution that enhances RJ2 Technologies' ability to support the decommissioning of our customers' old electronic hardware. With this recycling solution we can responsibly and safely dispose of your old servers, laptops, desktops, and other hardware. Additionally, we will provide your company a certification of destruction for hard drives that previously held sensitive company information.

One of the standout benefits of this affordable solution is we will plant a tree for each device recycled, supporting our shared commitment to reforestation and the health of our planet. Thank you for helping us in our efforts to create a greener, more sustainable future.

If you are interested in recycling your IT assets and want to learn more about this new solution, please call RJ2 Technologies at 847-303-1194 or email marketing@rj2t.com



Tech Tips - Spring Cleaning Your Digital Workspace

1 Declutter Your Files

- **Organize Your Folders** - Create a clear folder structure for your files. Use descriptive names and consistent naming conventions.
- **Delete Unnecessary Files** - Go through your files and delete anything you no longer need. This includes old documents, duplicate files, and outdated downloads.
- **Archive Old Projects** - Move completed projects to an archive folder to free up space on your main drive.

2 Optimize Your Software

- **Update Your Applications** - Ensure all your software is up to date to benefit from the latest features and security patches to protect you against vulnerabilities.
- **Remove Unused Programs** - Uninstall applications you no longer use to free up space and improve system performance.

3 Streamline Your Email

- **Unsubscribe from Unwanted Subscriptions** - Unsubscribe from promotional emails you no longer read.
- **Organize Your Inbox** - Create folders or labels for different types of emails (e.g. work, personal, important). Use filters to automatically sort incoming emails.
- **Delete Old Emails** - Regularly delete emails that are no longer relevant or needed.

4 Enhance Your Workspace

- **Clean Your Hardware** - Physically clean your keyboard, mouse, and monitor to create a more pleasant working environment.
- **Improve Ergonomics** - Adjust your desk setup to ensure it's user-oriented to reduce strain, improve comfort, and help with efficiency.

