



It pays to be friendly to our environment

Every year businesses discard 3 million tons of office furniture creating enormous amounts of waste and an estimated \$100 million in disposal costs, according to a US study. Manufacturing of office furniture is a \$13-billion industry in Canada and its impact on the environment is significant: it contributes to the reduction of forest and mineral reserves through the extraction of natural resources. Moreover, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) pollute the environment during the manufacturing process and, they may continue to be released and contribute to indoor air pollution after installation.

Green Building and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) programs in Canada, and newly adopted “green procurement” policies in North American corporations are designed to address this and other sustainability issues. Individual consumers and business organizations can choose to make a difference by selecting environmentally responsible products, and that includes office furniture.

When many people think of used office furniture they think of filing cabinets with scratches and work stations with stained upholstery – not an attractive picture when considering an office interior design. However, today, office furniture can be “remanufactured” to create beautiful, high-end furniture systems that satisfy the most particular commercial interior designer. Not only that, it is an excellent value for money and it offers environmental sustainability.

Many companies such as Envirotech Office Systems Inc. remanufacture high-end, quality office furniture and offer businesses great return on their furniture investments and environmental sustainability. With custom colors, fabrics and paint applications the remanufacturing process makes office furniture affordable, sustainable, and an exceptional value.

“Our mission is to extend the life of viable office furnishings and divert them from the solid waste stream, so businesses can create a healthier work environment, protect the planet and significantly reduce costs,” says Joanne Lytwyn, President of Envirotech. “We offer great value and keep things out of the landfill,” continues Joanne.

Many Canadian companies are concerned about sustainability. In addition to choosing lighting, heating, waste treatment, and appliances that reduce energy costs and environmental impact, they also choose office furniture with sustainability in mind. Canon Canada, BOC Gases, and 5th Business are examples of eco-friendly companies that purchase sustainable “green” remanufactured high-end office furniture from Envirotech. It enhances their working space and is custom designed to match their interior concepts. It not only reflects their business image, it speaks to pragmatism, good business sense and, of course, environmental responsibility.

“We purchased remanufactured 30 year-old work stations and used chairs for our new office,” says Stuart Lewis, President of 5th Business. “Besides being great value, they fit perfectly with our modern design, provide a healthier work environment, and support our philosophy in terms of sustainability. What I like most is the fact that we own brand new furniture that in reality is two or three generations old.”

