



<https://www.ecolink.com/info/Becoming-an-Eco-Friendly-Company>

“Eco-friendly,” “Sustainable,” and “Green” are buzzwords that we see plastered on product packaging and company websites. But what does it mean for a company to actually be eco-friendly?

In this community blog, we will explore what it means to be an eco-friendly company and how to become an eco-friendly company with sustainable chemical use.

What Does it Mean to Be Eco-Friendly?

The term “Eco-friendly” refers to an item or process that doesn’t harm to the environment.

For example, choosing to use a reusable water bottle rather than a single-use water bottle is an eco-friendly habit, the same way that the reusable water bottle is an eco-friendly product.

However, being eco-friendly doesn’t mean a person, item, or company is perfectly free of waste, it may simply mean they’re trying to be better. Here are some simple examples of ways you can become more eco-friendly:

- Choose biodegradable or reusable products vs. single-waste products
- Take the bus or other public transportation instead of driving your car each day
- Install LED lights over fluorescent lights

While these sustainable practices don’t seem like much, they are a step in the right direction. Striving to be eco-friendly doesn’t have to mean life altering decision to make real impacts!

What Does it Mean to Be an Eco-Friendly Company?

If a company is eco-friendly, it means that they strive to observe practices that don’t harm the environment.

Here are only some of the ways “green” companies’ daily operations may differ from companies who don’t observe eco-friendly practices:

They Reduce Their Energy Consumption

- Having employees work at home greatly cuts back on transportation needs, thus decreasing the amount of harmful emissions put into the air each day.
- Conducting an energy audit regularly to see which appliances and electronics are using too much energy can help decrease unnecessary energy usage and waste.

They Switch Their Packaging

- Have you ever seen a package that says, “Made from Recycled Materials?” If so, then this is an obvious sign that a company is striving to be more eco-friendly.

But even if a company doesn’t change all their packaging to be biodegradable, reusable, etc., there are other ways companies can be greener.

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Take water bottle manufacturers for example. Instead of large chunky lids, some companies have switched to smaller more streamline lids that consist of less plastic by nearly 50%. While this isn't eliminating the use of single-waste plastic all together, it is a step in the right direction.

They Buy in Bulk

- Buying in bulk is an easy way for any company to go green and save money! Companies that buy in bulk are generating less waste thanks to less packaging for bulk items, and often get discounted rates that end up saving them money in the long run.

They Know Who They're Working With

- Eco-friendly companies are not only mindful of their own business practices, but those of their suppliers, manufacturers, and any other partners they may rely on in some way. They may choose transportation companies that plan their routes in a way that saves gas and decreases emissions into the atmosphere or may even choose a supplier that also has similar sustainable goals as them.

5 Reasons to Become an Eco-Friendly Company

1. Save the Earth!

The first and most obvious reason to become more eco-friendly is to do your part and protect the environment! Whether you believe it or not, we all have a social responsibility to protect our home and since moving to Mars isn't looking like an option anytime soon—Earth is our only home, so it only makes sense that we should protect it.

2. Save Money

Did you know that going green can actually save you money? It's true! For example, Not only does using energy efficient lighting cheaper than fluorescent bulbs, but you can also get major tax deductions on your taxes each year if you complete energy efficient innovations in your work space and other facilities.

3. Attract Talented Employees

Sustainable companies attract young and qualified employees more so than companies that aren't sustainable. The [growing concern](#) over the health of the environment is common among Millennials and Gen Z, who are the future of the workplace.

If companies want to recruit top talent now and in the future, then going green is a must.

4. Appeal to Customers

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Sustainability appeals not only to potential employees, but your customers. If a company is striving to be “better” and protect the environment, customers see the company as a caring and trustworthy brand.

Green marketing demonstrates that sustainability is a part of a company’s mission and vision. Not only does going green appeal to existing customers, but helps you reach an entire other group of people who are looking to do business with or buy from companies that are eco-friendly.

In a [study from 2020](#), Gen Z consumers were surveyed about the importance of buying eco-friendly products. 73% of the consumers answered that they would choose to shop with an eco-friendly company over a non-eco-friendly company, and 54% would even pay more for a sustainable product rather than purchase a product that’s not sustainable.

Changing Your Chemical Use to Become a Greener Company

Now, you might be thinking, “I don’t work in the chemical industry, so why does chemical usage matter to me?”

What you may not realize is that chemicals are all around us—no matter what our profession is. We use cleaning supplies that contain chemicals to wipe down our desks, ink that contains chemicals to print out reports, and even cosmetics made of chemicals before we go to work every morning.

While this doesn’t mean every industry or company uses the same amount of chemicals to keep their daily operations running smoothly, it’s important to acknowledge that we all use chemicals at least some point in our day and each have the opportunity to practice sustainable chemical use in one way or another.

For manufacturers and distributors, these opportunities are plentiful.

1. Swap Hazardous Chemicals

Do the chemical products you use have a plethora of concerning side effects on the label? Then maybe it’s time to decrease your risk by switching to safer, less hazardous chemicals.

There are several non-toxic options on the market that work just as well as traditional toxic chemicals. Here are some of the benefits of making the switch:

- Protects workers’ health
- Often more cost-effective
- Protects the environment
- Easier disposal

2. Replace VOCs

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Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are highly toxic compounds found in many chemical products and raise several health and environmental concerns.

- Causes air pollution
- Can get into ground water sources
- Can damage the liver, kidneys, and more
- May cause cancer with prolonged exposure

One of the easiest ways to become more eco-friendly is to get rid of products that contain these highly toxic chemicals.

3. Optimize Your Chemical Processes

Is there a way that you could make your current chemical process more sustainable?

This applies more to companies directly in the manufacturing business. For example, creating a more efficient manufacturing process of your products could mean decreasing the amount of chemicals used, or even choosing chemicals that require less waste, which can save you time and money.

Generally, developing a more efficient manufacturing process means less harmful emissions put out into the atmosphere each day, and is a step towards becoming more eco-friendly.

4. Protect Your Workers

Whether you're in the manufacturing business or own your own cleaning service, your workers are exposed to several chemicals throughout the day that can harm their health. So when you switch to safer chemicals, you can greatly reduce chemical accidents, negative health effects, and other risks they encounter each day.

Even if you switch to safer chemicals, it's important to protect your workers by providing them with the proper safety gear (e.g., goggles, gloves, proper ventilation systems, etc.) and having a safe chemical disposal procedure in place.

5. Responsible Waste Disposal

One of the best ways to practice responsible and eco-friendly chemicals usage is by properly disposing of all chemical waste. Always read the instructions on the packaging or contact the manufacturer to learn how to correctly dispose of the chemical product.

Failure to do so can mean that the chemical can end up harming workers and/or the environment. Improper chemical disposal often results in runoff, poisoning lakes, rivers, streams, and other water sources that all living things rely on.

6. Choose a Chemical Supplier You Trust

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Last but not least, it's important that you choose a chemical supplier that you can trust to provide you with safe and sustainable chemical options. Making sure that your supplier shares the same eco-friendly goals as you is a great way to practice sustainable chemical use.

Looking for Sustainable Chemicals?

At Ecolink, we're not only dedicated to providing our customers with high-quality chemicals, but to protecting the environment. We supply companies with eco-friendly, industrial-grade chemical options that are great replacements for hazardous chemicals.

To learn more about the importance of environmentally conscious chemical use, then **check out our other Community Blogs** where we highlight chemical issues and sustainable chemical use.

Interested in purchasing our chemicals? Then feel free to browse our catalog of products or [reach out](#) to one of our team members today!

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