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Saving Money at the Office

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Saving Money at the Office

Plastic utensils like cups, spoons, and forks are used globally in most offices because they are affordable and disposable. However, plastic products like these are not fit for the environment because of the damage they cause, such as polluting water bodies. According to Root (2020), these plastic utensils are among the most dangerous products to sea mammals, turtles, and birds. Besides, if a company buys them monthly due to constant usage, at the end of the year, the organization will have used a lot of money. Most companies prefer them because they are hygienic as they can be used only once, especially the plastic cups for drinking water. For instance, an average company can use up to 30 plastic cups for drinking water alone, depending on the organization's number of employees. In a week, 150 cups will have been used, and in one month, 600 plastic cups will have been disposed into the environment. Our company can reduce costs by using re-usable utensils; staff members can carry their utensils from home for hygienic purposes, encourage recycling of the plastic utensils, and organize beach or park clean-up.

The company can provide staff members with reusable utensils such as glasses for drinking water, glass or ceramic cups, and stainless steel spoons to be used. These glassware utensils are a one-time purchase, they can be bought once, saving the company money annually, and they will last for a long if well maintained (Gautam & Caetano, 2017). Taking for instance the price of 1 plastic cup is \$5, then in one month, the company will have saved \$ 30,000 (600×5). However, because of their fragile nature, they can break if mishandled. In case they break, they are easily replaced if the demand is high. Replacing the broken utensils will still save the company money because it is not done regularly. Also, they are easy to store and clean in the workplace kitchen.

For staff members who value hygiene or the feel that the utensils are not well cleaned, they can bring some of their utensils from home for their personal use. This will also save the company money because it will not need to buy these utensils if everybody in the organization decides to come with their items.

If it is a must for the company to use plastic utensils, it should be recycled instead of being thrown away. They can be thoroughly cleaned after every use to reduce the constant daily usage of the utensils. This will cut the company's budget by half because instead of buying these utensils every month, they can be bought after three or four months, depending on their durability. In addition to this, the company management needs to educate the employees first on why they want to decrease the use of plastic utensils in the office. This will encourage employees to be mindful of their environment while saving the company money since staff members will want to go green.

Lastly, the company needs to organize a beach or park clean-up to see first-hand the damages of using plastic utensils in the workplace (Busch, 2019). This step will make them fully understand why the company is trying to reduce or recycle plastic products since they cannot be disposable. During this time, staff members can effectively brainstorm and develop ways to stop using plastic products in the company. For instance, instead of using the plastic coffee mug from the nearby coffee shop, they can gift each other with re-usable coffee mugs, plates, and spoons. This change will go a long way if employees will decide to embrace it without being forced.

As per the above suggestions, it is evident that this organization needs to employ the above measures to save the environment while saving money. However, these actions may take some time to be implemented because people do not like change. In case this is approved, the company will notice changes in their budget and the environment.

References

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