

Paper Waste Reduction In The Office - 500 Sheets Have 1000 Uses

Each year, on average, every Australian throws out 330 kilograms of paper and as a student, I know I use my fair share. On top of this, the business where I work is not an office but in its general administration, goes through reams of paper quite quickly with daily reports as well as day-to-day tasks.

Something you might notice, whether you're a student or have to deal with paperwork at your place of employment is that a lot of the printing and note-taking that goes on is single use. This means there's a lot of unnecessary waste going on. Or at least there would be if this simple recycling idea has not been employed.

As a student you may need to print out a report or assignment and part of the package is presentation – you don't want to be handing over a portfolio to someone that has last month's notes for another assignment on it (but you can print on both sides of each sheet of paper). If however, the document is for your eyes only, there's no reason why you can't flip those old sheets of paper over and print on the other side or cut them up for scrap paper instead of using post-it notes. Either way, when you're done – make sure they it all goes into paper recycling.

References

www.transpacific.com.au/asset/cms/Documents/Australian%20Waste%20-%20The%20Facts.pdf

Morgan Thistlethwaite, RMIT University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia