

HARKEL OFFICE

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Going Green in the Office



Green Hints

HBC Chooses Harkel

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Going Green in the Office

Global warming, dwindling natural resources and undesirable carbon dioxide emission levels were once the proprietary domain of scientists and environmentalists. Today these issues have solidly entered the mainstream along with a growing public awareness of the need to get green – and stay there.

Making healthier choices for the planet's future is an issue that many companies take very seriously. While fingers have long been pointed at the commerce and manufacturing sectors for creating environmental woes, many businesses are now harnessing their power in an attempt to reverse this tide.

As a leading distributor of office furniture in the Ontario market, Harkel Office Furniture is one Canadian company that is in a position to make a difference. Harkel offers a wide range of green products for companies looking for eco-sensitive office solutions. "We are proud of our relationships with manufacturers who have adopted environmental

programs to protect natural resources and prevent pollution through product design and manufacturing," says Howard Klerer, Vice-President, Harkel Office Furniture. "It is by choosing to work with like-minded companies that we can take positive strides towards an improved environment," he adds. "Our office solutions team knows what's out there, what the benefits are, and how to help transition customers to a healthier and more eco-friendly office."



Enviro-check: Look for certifications GREENGUARD Certified, FSC Certified, ISO14001, Ecologo and LEED Certified when planning your office purchases.

Those considering an office redesign might want to look to Global's eco-product line-up. It features seating, work stations, panelling, and filing and storage systems that have all been created with an eye towards the environment. The company is committed to minimizing negative environmental impact throughout the product's lifecycle. Reclaimed aluminum is used over steel in products, where possible. This helps reduce smelting emissions, waste going to landfill and bauxite mining. The products are also designed to be recycled at the end of their life, with Global even going so far as to implement a "take back" program to ensure that the components of the products are reused, recycled or repurposed. Additionally, Global ensures that products have low chemical and particle emissions to contribute to good indoor air quality and a healthier environment for employees.

Clearly, going green can involve a lot more than meets the eye. Carefully exploring product options and dealing with companies that champion sound environmental policies can make the greening of the office a viable choice.



System 3

System 3 offers the freedom to plan the office environment your way while keeping an eye on the bottom line. Boulevard's aluminum framed panels are recyclable at the end of their lifespan. Nothing from a Boulevard panel needs to ever end up in a landfill.

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HBC Turns Green with Harkel

More and more Canadian companies are increasing their focus on going green. Paperless invoicing, online ordering, and internal recycling efforts are just some of the initiatives that have taken a firm foothold in the workplace. Other companies are forming green committees, giving staff time off for community clean-ups, matching charitable donations to environmental causes, reducing packaging, revamping products and realigning manufacturing practices to meet green goals. The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), long recognized as a hallmark of "Canadiana" is no exception. In contemplating a redesign of its Brampton-based head office, HBC set up a mandate to install 1200 new work units of eco-friendly furnishings.

The company selected green products from The Global Group and turned to Harkel Office Furniture to distribute and service the large-scale installation. "We looked at what we were going to get at the end of the day and came up Harkel", says Robert Kolida, Senior Vice President, Human Resources, HBC. "Two key factors drove us forward: we wanted a firm with sound environmental policies like HBC's, and product that delivered on value."

"Harkel was accommodating and flexible," he adds. "Working with Howard Klerer, the vice president, and account managers, Jason Harvey and Andrew Kotler, was a positive process. They really helped us envision what our end product would be. They mocked up work stations for us and helped us make the call. They were up against one of the leaders in the industry, so this was a big win for them."

Harkel is slated to complete the installation for HBC by the winter of 2009. The newly designed office will house HBC's buyers and retail operations personnel.



Hudson's Bay Company Goes Big on Green with Head Office Redesign



Sustainable Design Principles

By Deborah Sperry, ARIDO, HOK Team Lead

The HBC project was not only large in scope but required the application of a number of sustainable design principles to meet the client's requirements. They are offered here as guidelines.

Reduce Energy and Water Consumption

- Indirect light fixtures and daylight and motion responsive controls;
- Energy-efficient hand dryers;
- Lavatory faucets with sensors and low-flow fixtures.

Indoor Air Quality

- Install Greenguard Certified workstations;
- Locate high-volume copy, print and fax equipment in enclosed rooms away from occupant work spaces.

Access to Daylight

- Locate private offices near the building core leaving the perimeter windows open for low paneled workstations.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Reuse existing meeting room furniture wherever possible;
- Repurpose existing systems furniture;
- Recycle existing carpet;
- Use cradle-to-cradle carpet that can be recycled in a continuous loop, again and again.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

“Use demountable wall system interior partitions, offering flexibility as the business grows.”

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Maximizing Space: Home Offices Ideas

- Do a realistic “needs analysis” of what you require for your office.
- Select furniture and storage that suits the room size and your home environment. This is a room in your house so make it blend in with what you have done in other areas of your home.
- Ergonomics should play the most important part in your home office. Typically you spend more time sitting in your office chair than anywhere else. Invest in a good chair keyboard and monitor support to avoid repetitive strain injuries.



Harkel's Service Makes the Difference

When Astral Media, a leading Canadian media company, became dissatisfied with its supplier for office furniture services, they turned to Frankland & Associates, its interior design partner, for a recommendation. What was required was a furniture dealer that could coordinate efficiently with manufacturers for on time delivery. Harkel was the ultimate choice. “Harkel has a reputation for excellent service,” said Leslie Tuttle, Frankland’s lead on the Astral project. “Our client could not be happier.”

New Products

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Uxbridge Bamboo Veneer Executive Station

Using one of Descor's most popular product line, Uxbridge, this station is made from bamboo, a rapidly renewable resource that can be harvested every 3 to 5 years.

Alba Laminate Meeting Tables

Introducing contemporary laminate tables with metal bases designed by Zooney Chu.



Kate

Fashion finds the workplace in this contemporary seating series for meeting areas, customer centres, presentations facilities and low task office applications.

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