

Recycling cubicles saves money, landfill space

Convincing your company's bosses to do something good for the environment is easier if you can appeal to their sense of fiscal responsibility, too.

One easy way to save money and help the environment at your company is right in front of you.

No, it's not the 10-year old computer, or the complimentary coffee mug with company logo. It's your workstation.

The panels that create our cubicle worlds are one of the most expensive items com-



NEWS TO USE Environment at Work

Ken Dey

panies buy. A typical workstation costs around \$2,000.

With such a large investment, it might surprise you to know that when most com-

panies close, those workstations typically end up in the landfill.

Fortunately, some entrepreneurs are keeping those workstations out of the landfills and making a few bucks at the same time.

One of those companies is New Life Office, which started in Salt Lake City 13 years ago.

The company opened a Boise location two years ago.

Company owner Alan Fox said panel work stations are difficult to take down and install, so many companies

simply write off the cost and haul them to the landfill.

Fox said his company offers to buy them from defunct companies at a cut price.

They then refurbish them with new paint, fabric and desktops making them as good as new, but at half the price.

The same workstation you pay \$2,000 for new will cost you 40 to 60 percent less from Fox's company, he said. The refurbishing work is so thorough that it's tough to tell the difference between a new

and refurbished system.

If you need more proof, check out the company's showroom in Garden City at 5220 N. Sawyer St., or visit www.newlifeoffice.com.

Now that your company is saving money on workstations, perhaps it's time to think about spending a little extra on that recycled paper. Just a thought.

Share your tips on helping the environment at work by contacting reporter Ken Dey at kdey@idahostatesman.com or 377-6428.