



Joe Jaszewski / The Idaho Statesman

Clayton Clark, left, and Jamey Yanik install refurbished desks in the New Life Office showroom on South Victory View. New Life Office won an EnviroGuard Award from the city this year because the company refurbishes used office furniture and sells it at discounted prices.

Company puts new life into old office furnishings

Thinking of throwing out that old desk in your office? Or are the walls of your cubicle falling apart? Well, don't haul those pieces of furniture off to the landfill just yet. A local business wants to recycle them.

New Life Office won an EnviroGuard Pollution Prevention Award from the city of Boise last month because it refurbishes used desks, chairs, cubicle walls and other office furniture to make them look as good as new.

"We are in the recycling, remanufacturing business," said Kelly Way, manager of New Life Office in Boise.

"This year, we've been able to save approximately 1,500 tons of recyclable materials that would have gone to the landfill," he said when he received the EnviroGuard Award last month.

When companies move to a new



Environment at work

office or go out of business, they often call Way and his team to tear down and haul off old workstations.

New Life Office fixes up that furniture — repainting the desks and replacing the fabric on cubicle walls — and then sells the items to individuals and businesses at about half the price of a new piece of furniture.

How to contact New Life Office

Visit the New Life Office showroom at 2962 S. Victory View Way in Boise or call 321-9211 for information.

"It looks brand-new," Way said. "That's the beauty of it. It's remanufactured, but it looks brand-new."

New Life Office offers a lifetime warranty on all its products.

The company tries to keep its workplace as green as possible in oth-

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At IdahoStatesman.com
 Link to learn more about New Life Office or the city's EnviroGuard Pollution Prevention Award.

Awards

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Dixon Container won the award for product innovation this year after it fixed up an older machine to turn waste foam materials into a profitable shipping product.

Dixon Container manufactures shipping boxes for about 2,000 industrial and electronics companies, mostly making computer boxes.

The company also cuts up foam into squares designed to cushion computers when they are shipped in the boxes.

But when that foam is cut, some excess pieces are left behind. Owner Doug Dixon used to take these pieces to the landfill but soon realized he could cut up the excess pieces and make foam fill, which can be used like packing peanuts.

Now, the company sells about 300 bags of foam fill every month.

"We really are kind of a thrifty, innovative company," Dixon said. But for Dixon, the innovations are just a part of doing business.

"When you're small and you start with no money, you have to out-think it," said Dixon.

He and his wife, Michelle, started the company in their garage more than 20 years ago, picking up and reselling boxes and other shipping materials that other businesses didn't want.

The company now occupies a 43,000-square-foot facility near Columbia Village and employs 50 workers.

"It's a big deal for us," he said of the award. "We're really proud of it."

Not only does Dixon Container recycle waste, but most of the company's machines are used ones that Dixon and his employees have refurbished.

The other award recipients were also proud to get the award, saying it is an incentive to continue environmentally friendly practices.

The director of the state Department of Environmental Quality, for example, said he was pleased to receive what Bieter called the "walk-the-talk award" because it shows DEQ workers practice the policies they teach, including recycling programs in

HDR Inc.

HDR Inc., an architecture and engineering firm in Boise, won the medium business EnviroGuard award for its pollution prevention efforts in the workplace.

► The company encourages employees to use video conferencing to talk with clients to minimize driving time. HDR also chose its office location on ParkCenter Boulevard because it is close to the Greenbelt and within walking distance of local restaurants.

► HDR employs a director for its Sustainable Business Initiative. The director works to put recycling bins at every work station, implement a fluorescent lamp recycling program and create other environmental practices.

► The firm has a full-time Sustainable Design Services Department that works to construct and design "green" buildings, like the Banner Bank Building downtown.

For more information, contact David Gibney at 387-7026.

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

DEQ won the EnviroGuard award in the large business category because the state agency has created a variety of environmentally friendly practices in its office.

► Employees recycled 22,209 pounds of materials last year, including paper, newspapers, magazines, cardboard, aluminum cans and printer and toner cartridges.

► The agency tries to buy office products that are mostly made from recycled materials,

including business cards, letterhead, envelopes and printer paper. The benches outside DEQ's office are also made from recycled plastic.

► DEQ has an employee transportation coordinator who mapped out where employees live and organized carpooling networks. Agency employees prevented more than 75 tons of air pollution through carpooling, according to the city.

For more information about DEQ, go to www.deq.state.id.us.

the office and carpooling networks among employees.

"It's outstanding for us to receive this award," said Toni Hardesty, director of DEQ. "Our employees really do walk the talk, so it's really nice for the employees to be recognized."

Companies must apply to receive the award each year.

When the EnviroGuard program first began, the city only received two or three applications, but nine companies entered this year, said Megan Kershner, a program coordinator at the city's Department of Public Works.

The other five applicants received honorable mentions this year.

To offer story ideas or comments, contact reporter Melissa McGrath at mmcgrath@idaho-statesman.com or 377-6439.

New Life Office

New Life Office won the EnviroGuard award in the small business category. The company refurbishes used furniture, such as chairs, desks and cubical walls, and then sells the pieces at about half the price of new furniture. New Life Office has been open in Boise for three years.

The store has saved 1,500 tons of recyclable materials from heading to the landfill so far this year, said Kelly Way, the Boise store manager. New Life Office delivers and installs the furniture and can design office spaces, Way said.

For more information, contact New Life Office at 321-9211.