

How Lean and Green Is Your Organization?

Take this Quiz to Find Out

Are there treasures in your trash? Is money literally going down the drain at work? Dozens of well-known organizations around the globe have transformed their businesses from resource-gobbling Frankensteins into Lean and Green corporate machines. Your company may be sitting on millions in new revenue or savings. Circle the choice that most accurately answers each question, and then see how you scored.

- True False Every computer, printer, and machine is turned off when the workplace is closed.
- True False There is a separate receptacle for recyclable paper in the company's mail room, printing room, and offices.
- True False All light fixtures in the office have been individually evaluated to make sure that the most energy-efficient light bulbs are being used.
- True False Good packaging materials that come into the office are routinely saved and reused.
- True False Cleaning materials used for housekeeping, decontaminating, disinfecting, and degreasing are nontoxic, safe, biodegradable, and purchased in bulk containers.
- True False All old machinery and office equipment gets sold, donated, or taken apart and recycled.
- True False Machines, furnaces, and other equipment are routinely inspected to make sure they are operating at peak efficiency.
- True False All chemicals used at your company, from glue in desk drawers to chemicals for a manufacturing process, have been evaluated for toxins and carcinogens and have been replaced with nontoxic alternatives.
- True False There is no place in the company where water, fuel, or electricity can be conserved.
- True False Carpooling is encouraged and rewarded at your company.
- True False Employees working on the assembly line, in the shipping department, in customer care, and elsewhere have been asked if they know of any waste that is occurring anywhere at the company.
- True False Employees are encouraged to make suggestions on ways the company could save money through better design, more efficient production, energy conservation, and other means, and are rewarded when they do.

Scoring: Count up the number of True answers circled.

- 1–4** *Your business is sitting on a gold mine! Start by addressing the easiest, most obvious problems and watch the money flow change direction.*
- 5–8** *Clearly, you and your employees are taking some steps to the benefit of the environment and profit. You are in a better position than most to get some serious environmental policy enacted.*
- 9–12** *Congratulations! You belong to the elite few companies smart enough to realize that being Lean and Green makes excellent business sense. Poll your employees to find out where new savings and revenue can be generated. You'll be surprised what they come up with.*