

Telecommuting Can Provide Cost, Productivity Benefits

Although more organizations have started to allow telecommuting at their offices, many executives have been reluctant to embrace the trend. However, these remote work critics avoid this movement at their own peril, as they are failing to recognize the many benefits associated with telecommuting.

If the millions of Americans with roles conducive to telecommuting were allowed to work from home just half of the time, American enterprises would save about \$260 billion each year. Instead of spending on more office supplies and other expenses, corporate leaders could allocate funds to projects that grow the company.

One of the many knocks critics cite as a reason to keep workers in the office is that remote workers are not as productive as in-house staff. However, this is an inaccurate assessment, as 53 percent of managers see a spike in productivity after telecommuting solutions are put in place.

Another perk of telecommuting is that it can be used as a recruiting tool. In fact, two-thirds of employees say they would switch companies if it made their commute easier.

With so many clear benefits, it's hard for enterprise leaders to make a case against allowing telework.

THE BUSINESS CASE FOR TELECOMMUTING

The appeal of flexible work arrangements is clear to employees, but the prevalence of restrictive policies seems to suggest management still needs some convincing. Here are a few surprising telecommuting trends that may sway their opinions:

REAL RETURNS

If the estimated 33 million American employees holding jobs compatible with telecommuting worked half of their hours from home, U.S. companies could save a combined \$260 billion annually.

U.S. COMPANIES COULD SAVE: \$260 BILLION (annually)

PRODUCTIVITY ASSURED

Since implementing a telecommuting policy, more than half of managers have noted an increase in employee productivity while another 42% saw no difference between home and office efficiency.

Increased	53%
No Difference	42%

RECRUITING EDGE

Two-thirds of employees would change jobs to ease their commute, and 80% consider telework a corporate perk.

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BUSINESS CONTINUITY

Fewer than 30% of workers employed by organizations that do not support telecommuting believe they could continue to perform their jobs in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster.

28%

GLOBAL IMPACT

The 28 million active American telecommuters collectively save the equivalent of 24% of annual gulf oil imports and curb carbon emissions by 33 million metric tons each year.

ACTIVE U.S. TELECOMMUTERS SAVE: 33 MILLION TONS (annually)

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SOURCES
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