



10 actions to get started on reducing your climate impact

1. Switch energy suppliers



- We are in the midst of an energy crisis so this may not be the ideal time to switch suppliers from a cost perspective (stick with your supplier if you have a fixed price deal), but normally switching suppliers can save you money and reduce your carbon footprint instantly if you currently are not on a green tariff
- One of the largest proportions of an organisation's emissions comes from energy consumption – by switching to an energy supplier that uses renewables you can dramatically reduce your emissions without having to physically make any changes to your organisation
- Green energy suppliers include the likes of Green Energy UK, Ecotricity and Octopus

2. *LED lighting*



- Another quick win is to change inefficient bulbs with LED lighting.
- Many offices are lit artificially unnecessarily – utilize natural light as much as possible.
- In addition, inexpensive technology such as motion sensors and dimmer switches can reduce energy consumption

3. Turn the thermostat down



- Turning the temperature down by 1 degree can reduce your energy cost by 8% as well as your carbon footprint.
- Implement temperature controls, such as using a timer, will allow you to control when the building needs heating and cooling as well as manage specific room temperatures.
- Window film is a cost-effective product that allows light in but reflects the heat back out during the summer and can be reversed in winter so that heat is reflected into room.

4. *Insulate*



- Many buildings across the UK have poor insulation leaving them expensive to both heat and cool during the winter and summer months. Consider installing cavity wall and roof insulation to cut the amount of heat loss and conserve energy.
- Check with your current energy provider and local authority as they may offer funding to partially or fully cover the cost of improving your energy efficiency
- If you are renting premises, talk to your landlord

5. Introduce flexible working policies



- Since the first covid-19 lockdowns, many office workers have gotten used to remote working. Now restrictions have eased, more businesses are offering flexible working policies. Instead of travelling long distances for meetings and events, consider whether that meeting could be hosted online through video conferencing platforms such as Zoom or Teams. This will save your staff commuting times, travel expenses, and reduce your company's emissions.
- If employees were able to perform their role adequately when they were required to work from home, why enforce a policy to come back into the office? Talk to staff about what works for them

6. *Check who you bank with*



- Use this quick checker to see if your bank is 'green' [Find Ethical & Sustainable Banks In Your Area - Bank.Green](#)
- Many of the largest banks invest heavily in unsustainable practices such as the fossil fuel industry.
- Some of the more sustainable options that consider people and planet not just profits include Triodos, Starling, and Co-operative Bank

7. *Look at your pension funds*



- Have you reviewed the pension provider you offer employees?
- Many pension providers invest your money in companies that contribute to deforestation, funding fossil fuel projects, fast fashion and so on. Companies and consumers who are trying to act more sustainably may be caught out by this.
- [Make My Money Matter](#) is a people-powered campaign that aims to make your pension money more transparent and to help you invest in building a better future. Join the campaign and see if your provider could be using your money better

8. *Raise employee engagement*



- Businesses play an important role in raising awareness across many of their stakeholders including their employees. Organising in-house campaigns to raise and improve awareness on sustainability issues is a great place to start.
- Why not do a screening of the WWF Our Planet films? ICAEW has hosted several screenings of the film that has captured the attention and imagination of many of our members and students. See [Our Planet: Too Big To Fail](#) and [Our Planet: Our Business](#)
- Starting these conversations at work can have a snowball effect as employees may engage with customers, family and friends on these issues to kickstart wider change

9. Reduce waste



- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Measure how much of your waste goes to landfill releasing GHGs in the process; can this be diverted through repurposing, reselling, or recycling?
- If you haven't digitized your documents yet, now might be the time. Reduce the amount of paper that you consume – anything left over make sure it is recycled correctly and if you print large documents, print on both sides and remember to recycle your ink cartridges
- Does your business produce or stock food? According to WRAP, commercial and industrial businesses in the food sector waste 2.9 million tonnes of food per year, valued at over £5.2 million. Measure your food waste and reduce stock accordingly. If you are still encountering excess food, partner with organisations such as [Too Good To Go](#) or [Foodcycle](#) so that food can be used by someone else.
- Review your packaging processes – only use what is necessary and try to cut down on plastic packaging where possible

10. Choose sustainable suppliers



- Review your suppliers and ask them what their sustainability credentials are. You may be supporting unsustainable practices unknowingly
- Those who supply to you and whom you supply are part of your scope 3 emissions. Starting the conversation and working with your supply chain to share best practice/resource is a great way to drive down emissions collectively
- A good certification to look out for is ISO 14001 - this provides proof that an organisation has environmental management at the heart of their Quality Management Systems
- Do you import/ship many goods? When buying resources, look for local vendors



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