

CLIMATE CHANGE FACTSHEET

5. Advice for Businesses



Businesses can go green! How can local firms reduce carbon?

Since the declaration of the **Climate Emergency** by Local Authority Members, businesses are under pressure from the government - and their own customers - to **reduce their impact on the environment**. SMEs account for 64% of the EU's environmental impact, presenting a huge opportunity.

You may be asking 'how can I as a Councillor best serve my constituents to take positive environmental action?'

This factsheet helps you direct **local small business owners** to the right help, encourage them, give them ideas and provide them with contacts for advice and support.

HOW CAN I MAKE A START?

Many businesses would like to take steps to reduce their carbon emissions but are unsure where to start. Here are the first steps which businesses of any size can take:

- **"You can't manage what you haven't measured"** - get advice from an energy auditor or use an online toolkit to measure your company's carbon footprint and work out the biggest sources of emissions. These could be heating, cooling, transport or energy use.
- **Think about how to reduce** these. Get advice, do your research or ask others in your business network, and your own staff.
- **Make an action plan** and ensure all staff follow it. Monitor your progress by reviewing energy bills and try to reduce them each year. This will start saving money and carbon.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE

BEE ANGLIA GRANTS

Suffolk County Council's Business Energy Efficiency Anglia programme which is delivered by Groundwork offers grants of between £1k and £20k for energy efficiency improvements such as LED lighting and heating or insulation upgrades to business premises. Electric vehicles can also be considered.

More information, including case studies, are at <http://www.beeanglia.org> or call 01473 350370.

SUFFOLK CARBON CHARTER

The Carbon Charter is an accreditation scheme for businesses who are making progress in reducing their environmental impact. A Groundwork advisor can assess their progress and award a Bronze, Silver or Gold award.

This allows businesses to demonstrate commitment to their customers and share best practice with other companies in the network. Call 01473 350370 or see the website:

<https://carboncharter.org/>

See the [SCCP website](#) for more sources of business advice, including grants, at

<http://www.greensuffolk.org/at-work>

You will find advice, funding, and a list of networking and event opportunities for businesses to get involved in to help make a start.

BEE ANGLIA SUPPORTS KIEZEBRINK



Based in Bury St Edmunds, Kiezebrink UK supply exotic animal food and raw meat diets.

BEE Anglia's advisors recommended installing freezer condensing units, LED lighting and frequency inverters in the premises, and were granted **£17,000** to complete the project.

This allowed the company to increase their freezer storage capacity and save **37.7tCO₂e** and **£7,500** per year.

BEE Anglia has supported over 800 businesses and awarded a total of **£1,173,088** in grants.

Most Suffolk SMEs can still apply.

WHAT OTHER SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

Across Suffolk there is support available, through national schemes and through local council run schemes. The first point of call is emailing GSBS@suffolk.gov.uk or calling 01473 260710.

- Suffolk County Council's Renewable Energy Fund allows businesses to install solar without the capital cost - call 07720 098980
- West Suffolk Council has a **Greener Business Grant** of up to £1,000 - call 01284 757400
- West Suffolk **Solar for Business** enables you to install solar at your business - call 01284 757400
- East Suffolk Means Business has a **Sustainable Business Toolkit**
- **BEE Anglia** has support and **grants of up to £20,000** for SMEs wishing to reduce their carbon footprint. Visit the website for more information and case studies: <http://www.beeanglia.org/>

Suffolk County Council's Climate Change Commercial Ask

To ensure the environmental impact of Suffolk County Council's procurement of goods, services and works is minimised, the Council is asking suppliers and their supply chain to work together to meet the Council's [Climate Change Commercial Ask](#).

10 Top Tips for Businesses

This is the 5th factsheet in a series of 7 aiming to inspire and empower action on climate change.

Can you inspire local business owners to...

- Read and **engage** with energy bills, and ensure someone is taking ownership of usage?
- Calculate their **carbon footprint** or do an audit?
- Talk to their **staff** about heating and lighting and what levels they need in their work spaces?
- Ensure heating **controls** are in place and are used correctly?
- **Retrofit** insulation on their heated or cooled premises?
- Think more carefully about energy when replacing or **upgrading** operational equipment?
- Switch their **vehicles** to low emission ones?
- Invest in **renewable energy** like solar panels?
- Switch providers to a **renewable energy supplier**?
- **Reduce** staff **travel** and make better use of technology?

What is my Council doing in response to the Climate Emergency declaration in 2019?

Suffolk County Council:

The Council is investigating ways to cut carbon and harmful emissions on a spend to save basis, with the ambition to make all council buildings, schools and services carbon neutral by 2030.

East Suffolk Council:

The climate emergency task group, which is made up of a cross-party group of members, is reviewing the recent climate emergency report it commissioned and is reporting quarterly to Cabinet on proposed actions. Updates are online: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/climate-change/east-suffolk-environment-task-group/>

West Suffolk Council:

The Council has set up a taskforce that has produced a road map of around 50 initiatives, agreed by the Cabinet, to build on their already successful work to reduce greenhouse emissions to net zero by 2030. You can read more online at: <https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/protecting-our-environment/>

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils:

In 2019 the Council set up a taskforce engaged with environmental experts to develop an action plan which was unanimously approved by Cabinet in 2020, forming the two councils' first Carbon Reduction Management Plan.

Ipswich Borough Council

The Borough has declared a climate emergency and produced a plan of action which Cabinet approved in 2020.

WHO TO CONTACT

Matt Hullis - Head of Environment Strategy (SCC)
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