

Environment

On Climate Change, the Scottish Government are encouraging all businesses to draw up plans for targeting emissions. This means establishing baselines, setting targets and milestones, sharing and celebrating progress as planning develops.

While the scale and type of action required will vary, the Government's view is that it is up to each business to ensure that it is contributing to reducing emissions in a way that benefits all.

The Government's Net Zero Nation resource outlines a number of potential actions:

- [Planning](#)
- [Energy Saving](#)
- [Transport](#)
- [Supply Chain](#)
- [Waste](#)
- [Further Reading](#)

Planning

Planning will be crucial to ensure that businesses can make the most of opportunities and prepare for changes. There's no single template for businesses, but effective climate-friendly business planning is likely to involve the following actions:

- Establish and measure your current emissions
<https://businessenergyscotland.org/guides/how-calculate-your-businesss-carbon-footprint/>
- Clearly define baselines for emissions, environmental impact and climate risk management.
- Set targets and milestones (in line with Scotland's net-zero ambition) for emissions reductions and economic growth and wellbeing in a net-zero economy.
- Identify and plan key actions, opportunities and partners.

Energy Saving

- Make use of Home Energy Scotland's Partnerships and Employee Engagement Service, which includes training, workshops, and materials to learn how we can all save energy at home.
<https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/help-your-staff-save-energy-at-home/>
- Switch to renewable energy sources.
- Invest in energy efficiency measures (such as improving building insulation, choosing low energy appliances and processes).
- Invest in low (or zero) emission heat and energy (such as heat pumps, solar or wind powered electricity).
- Make use of Zero Waste Scotland's guidance on funding, business support and case studies.
<https://businessenergyscotland.org/>

Transport

- Encourage more sustainable modes of transport for employees.
- Reduce business transport costs and lower emissions by contacting Energy Saving Trust who can provide expert and independent advice, including fleet reviews, general business transport reviews, support with electric vehicles, support for employees and information about funding.
<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/listing/grants-and-loans/>
- Electrify your car fleet and encourage employees to move towards electric vehicles for their own personal use.
- Install electric vehicle charging points in workplace car parks.
- Invest in energy efficiency measures, such as improving building insulation, choosing low energy appliances and processes.
- Invest in renewable energy sources, such as solar PVs and heat pumps.
- Continue to use video-conferencing technologies which have become the norm throughout the coronavirus pandemic and encourage only essential business travel which cannot be avoided.

Supply Chain

- Make any changes to the way the business operates or sources materials or services to ensure they are as green as possible.
- Encourage your own suppliers to make changes to the way they operate and how and where they source goods.

Waste

- Provide facilities for recycling unavoidable food waste.
- Re-design products and services to minimise waste.
- Seek advice from Zero Waste Scotland to make more sustainable choices by visiting Free Business Sustainability Support & Advice.
<https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/free-sustainability-advice-my-business>

Further Reading

<https://businessenergyscotland.org/>

<https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/help-your-staff-save-energy-at-home/>

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/listing/grants-and-loans/>

<https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/free-sustainability-advice-my-business>

<https://www.netzeronation.scot/take-action/businesses>

<https://www.creativecarbonscotland.com/resources/>