

Net Zero Business Toolkit:

As the UK is committed to achieving net zero by 2050, we want to make sure that businesses in our region are prepared and are aware of the changes that need to be made to reduce their emissions. We can see the impacts of climate change in our day-to-day lives as flooding and extreme weather conditions occur more often. These changes can be devastating for our natural ecosystems as well as the health of individuals.

As consumers are increasingly demanding that businesses adopt environmentally responsible practices, alongside the government's requirement for all businesses to have a plan of action by 2030 for how they aim to be net zero by 2050, we want to make sure that Staffordshire businesses have all the necessary resources to help them make this transition, ensuring that they remain both nationally and internationally competitive.

SME's make up 99% of the UK business community, therefore without businesses taking the necessary steps to reduce carbon emissions, achieving net zero by 2050 will be impossible.

How to use this toolkit:

This is a general toolkit for all businesses highlighting practical steps that your firm can take to reduce your carbon footprint.

Steps you can take towards achieving net zero:

- **Find out where your emissions come from and calculate the scale of them.**

Your carbon footprint includes all the greenhouse emissions that your firm emits over a 12-month period, meaning the emissions from sources you own and control and the emissions you indirectly produce, e.g., electricity.

Once you have identified where your emissions come from, you will then need to collect your data using a spreadsheet. You can start by looking at the litres of fuel or mileage for vehicles as well as the kWh of gas or electricity from your energy bill/meter.

You can then use an online tool to calculate your emissions <https://sben.co.uk/funded-support/sben-carbon-tracker/>.
- **Consider moving to a hybrid working model.**

By finding out your employee working patterns and whether or not they will be able to work remotely part or full time. This will help to reduce business travel and consequently reduce your firms' overall emissions.
- **Engage with your supply chain.**

Working with your supply chain to drive down emissions as well as share ideas and best practice as well as useful resources will also help to reduce overall emissions and reduce the firms' carbon footprint.
- **Begin Carbon Offsetting.**

Carbon offsetting can be an effective part of your carbon reduction strategy. If your company has an emissions-producing manufacturing process that has no proven alternative, then by introducing carbon offsetting you will be able to balance out the impact until a viable or affordable solution becomes available.
- **Consider the efficiency of your fleet and your supplier's fleet.**

Tracking your fleet efficiency and performance can help your firm to optimize the size of its fleet as well as save valuable resources including time and money. As you grow your business, it can become more difficult to manage your fleet, it can often be useful to use a

fleet tracking tool such as: <https://www.mapon.com/en/fleet-management-solutions/fleet-efficiency>.

You can find out more about Net Zero and share your story with the British Chambers of Commerce here: <https://www.britishchambers.org.uk/page/home-page/net-zero-hub-2?msclkid=500cb05dc47b11ec8ee877e8b9f83608>