

Net zero – Energy focus

If you want to take action to cut your carbon emissions and reduce business costs, **focusing on energy** is a good place to start.



Business benefits



1. Simple energy efficiency measures can reduce bills by up to 19 per cent.



2. Reduce carbon emissions and move closer to your net zero goals.



4. Understanding your energy use helps to pinpoint problems, such as faulty equipment, and highlight where action can be taken to reduce usage.



5. Retrofitting of properties will make work environments warmer and more comfortable for staff.



6. Government incentives, grant funding and loans are often available. Check out Enterprise Oxfordshire's [Funding & Grants page](#) for further information.



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Step by step

1. Energy use

Start by noting what types of energy you use, who your suppliers are and what your annual consumption is for each category. What data do you have available? If you haven't got a smart meter installed already, you can request a free one from your energy provider. This will help you to monitor your energy usage.



2. Switch to a green energy supplier

A simple carbon reduction opportunity with a high impact is to move to a green energy supplier, for example '[100 Green](#)'. The associated emissions can be reported as zero and help contribute to achieving net zero goals.



TOP TIPS



If you rent your property, inquire if your landlord uses renewable energy. If they don't, **request that they make the switch**. If it's a multiple occupancy building, come together with other tenants to add weight to your request.

3. Energy efficiency measures

According to Energy Solutions Oxfordshire, businesses can reduce their energy use (on average) by 19 per cent by implementing simple energy efficiency measures. Work through this free [check list](#) to start benefiting. [Low Carbon Hub](#) can offer a free, tailored energy assessment for businesses in South and Vale.



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TOP TIPS



If you are renting an inefficient property, **write to your landlord or letting agent** to propose energy efficiency measures ([suggested template](#)) and make them aware that they need to be ahead of new proposed legislation!

Commercial landlords can use [this guide](#) to understand the new legislation and what they need to do to cut operating costs and boost tenant satisfaction.

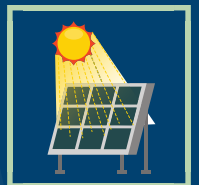
4. Invest to save

Consider retrofitting your property (or discuss with your landlord) to cut running costs, keep in line with legislation and retain the value of the property. The UK Business Climate Hub has produced a [guide](#) to help you get started.



5. Invest in renewables

Mitigate the business risk of volatile energy prices by switching to renewable energy sources with predictable costs. Solar power, for example, is one of the best investments available, offering dramatic savings on energy bills and the opportunity to be paid for sending excess power to the grid.



If possible, install renewable energy sources at your location or encourage your landlord to do so. See this [guide](#) from the SME Climate Hub on installing renewable energy. An initiative from [Low Carbon Hub](#) allows businesses to host a community-owned solar PV array on their roof, with no cost to the business.



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If your business needs funding to implement sustainable measures, check out Enterprise Oxfordshire's net zero [Funding & Grants page](#).



6. Home workers

If you are a homeowner and work from home, investing in making your home more energy efficient is particularly valuable. You will add value to your home, as well as reducing bills and making it a more comfortable place to live and work.



The first place to start is by looking to reduce your energy use. The Energy Saving Trust has some [quick tips](#).



TOP TIPS



Downloading Oxfordshire's **energy saving app** provides valuable insights into your usage, such as which household devices are using the most energy, and provides tailored recommendations.

The next step would be to consider retrofitting your home. A step-by-step guide, including grants and funding sources, can be found on the [South Oxfordshire District Council website](#). If you rent your property, be sure to discuss this with your landlord.



Check out our other net zero guides [via our website](#).



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