# **Success stories to inspire**

According to an analysis by the <u>Confederation of British Industry</u>, the UK's net zero economy **expanded by 10 per cent in 2024**, contributing £83 billion in gross value added (GVA), a measure of how much value companies add through the goods and services they produce.

Local businesses are reaping the benefits of net zero and we have rounded up some great success stories for inspiration!



# **Darcica Logistics**

<u>Darcica Logistics</u> is a family-owned business based in Bicester. The team have put sustainability at the heart of what they do and are going from strength to strength. They have set out to provide customers with a cleaner way to transport goods and to cut out plastics waste, offering zero emission deliveries, collections and plastic-free fulfilment.



The team are also working hard to ensure they are as sustainable as possible in all of their business operations and have a sustainability plan firmly in place. They are not using bubble wrap or plastic wrap for ecommerce customers and warehouse racking is reused.



#### **Milton Park**

Milton Park as been named as one of the country's most sustainable innovation communities, thanks to its commitment to create a culture of sustainability across its 300-acre campus. Its <u>Greener Workplace</u> Forum members share best practice and raise awareness of existing green initiatives around energy use, recycling, transport and more.





## **Nothing but Footprints**

Nothing but Footprints is a zero waste and refill business with stores in Banbury and Bicester. Refill businesses prevent wasting food, packaging and money.



The team aims to make shopping as ethical and affordable as possible, with over 1,700 sustainably sources products available. Simply bring your own containers or purchase cotton produce bags, clip top jars and bottles.



## **Pentangle Technology**

The carbon footprint of hosting a website often forms a significant proportion of overall emissions, especially for smaller businesses. Using a green website host can significantly reduce your digital carbon footprint.



Digital agency <u>Pentangle Technology</u> recognised that their biggest environmental impact was the website hosting they provided to customers. The team invested time and energy into finding a supplier, 'Nimbus Hosting', that they felt were making every effort to be as sustainable as possible.



Nimbus Hosting power their head office through their own roof mounted solar array. Their data centre meets <u>ISO14001:2004</u> and <u>BREEAM</u> standards, as well as being 100 per cent powered by renewable energy. They are also investing profits into ocean projects and clean drinking water initiatives.



Other ways to reduce your digital carbon emissions can be found via our <u>Digital Carbon Footprint guide</u>.





#### **Racquets Fitness Centre**

Thame-based <u>Racquets Fitness Centre</u> installed LED lighting in the squash courts, saving on maintenance and reducing carbon. Motion sensors have been added to optimise energy use, and timers now control hot water tanks and saunas, reducing the organisation's overall costs. These simple measures have saved £4,687 per annum and almost 7 tonnes of carbon.

# **Thames Cryogenics**

<u>Thames Cryogenics</u> are cryogenic piping manufacturers and installers, and a one-stop shop for cryogenic systems. The company replaced their fluorescent lighting tubes to LEDs. The lighting upgrade has saved them £4,000 per annum, as well as reducing their carbon footprint by 15 tonnes. The new lighting also requires less maintenance and provides better quality light.



## The Abbey

The Abbey in Sutton Courtenay is a retreat centre with live-in residents, as well as a guesthouse. Following an energy assessment, the building received new loft insulation, a heating system and LED lighting. The measures have helped the business reduce its bottom line by £6,618 per annum, providing a much more comfortable experience for both live-in residents and guests.



#### The Mix

The Mix, located in Wantage, switched from mobile heaters to an electric heating system to ensure a warmer environment for its users. A radiator was installed in the bathroom for better efficiency and user comfort, and secondary glazing was installed.



Check out our other net zero guides <u>via our website</u>, including information on how to get your own energy assessment from Energy Solutions Oxfordshire.

