



Funded by
UK Government

MIDLANDS
ENGINE


**Business
Lincolnshire**
The place to go for business growth

FACT SHEET

Net Zero - the basics

Low Carbon Lincolnshire

What is Net Zero?

By law, UK organisations must reach Net Zero by 2050, but what does this mean? As things stand, our energy needs are still heavily reliant on fossil fuels. Ideally we should be absolute zero carbon – meaning no emissions produced, but currently, due to the complications of fossil fuels, that is extremely difficult.

So we turn to Net Zero - no 'net' impact on the climate. To achieve this, organisations must reduce their emissions to as low as possible and balance any remaining / residual emissions through carbon removals.

Definitions

Carbon Neutral



Companies, processes and / or products can become carbon neutral when the respective carbon emissions are calculated, and these emissions are compensated through offsets

Net Zero



Greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere are balanced by removals out of the atmosphere

Absolute/ True Zero



No GHG emissions produced through business activity. Essentially the business is zero carbon with the need for offsets or balancing – this is the end goal for all global activities

How can it help your organisation?

Staff Engagement, Retention & Recruitment

Attract and retain employees who care about the environment. Studies show more than 65% of students would choose an organisation who operates sustainably over one who doesn't.

Cost & Carbon Saving

Reduce costs associated with energy and transport. Meet legislative and compliance requirements through active carbon management and Net Zero planning.

Reduce Risk & Increase Resilience

Increased resilience to future energy security concerns, and working through the Net Zero process can help assess climate and supply chain risks.

Access New Opportunities

As the need to decarbonise value chains becomes increasingly important, managing your environmental processes could maintain or attract customers and/or investors.

Getting started with Net Zero

- 1.** Complete a carbon footprint to measure your current carbon emissions - this can be done free through an online calculator or using Government provided carbon factors.
- 2.** Make a decarbonisation plan to reduce your carbon footprint - this should focus on no / low cost actions (quick wins) initially, with plans for medium to high cost actions in the future.
- 3.** Team engagement is essential - engage your team with initiatives that reduce carbon and save on energy costs.
- 4.** Start thinking about your supply chain - engage with your suppliers and customers asking them about their Net Zero ambition.



Is time running out?

Climate change is likely to impact us all – many of your current and potential employees, customers, and investors care about the environment – and want to work with companies that are taking action.

Regulatory requirements for large organisation for reporting carbon and climate disclosures are already being felt through supply chains from larger organisations. SMEs are likely to be included in mandatory climate reporting in future – so are you ready?



Need more support?

Get in touch!



For more information visit www.businesslincolnshire.com where you can request support from one of our advisers by filling in the online contact form.

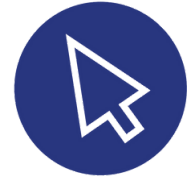


@businesslincs



businesslincolnshire@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Useful links



For anyone who needs to be compliant with PPN 06/21:

- [CCS 1 hour briefing every 2 weeks Thursday's 11am -12pm](#)

Global methodology for carbon accounting:

- GHG Protocol - <https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards/ghg-protocol-revised.pdf>
- [Scope 3 Calculation Guidance | Greenhouse Gas Protocol \(ghgprotocol.org\)](#)

UK methodology for carbon accounting and reporting:

- Large organisation GHG Reporting Guide (including SECR guidance) - [Environmental reporting guidelines: including Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting requirements - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- SME GHG Reporting Guide - [Small business user guide: Guidance on how to measure and report your greenhouse gas emissions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Government provided carbon conversion factors:

- DEFRA UK Conversion Factors - [Government conversion factors for company reporting of greenhouse gas emissions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Online carbon calculators:

- [SME Carbon Footprint Calculator | The Carbon Trust for businesses](#)
- [Start measuring - SME Climate Hub](#)
- [Business Carbon Planner | NatWest Business Banking](#)
- [carbonfootprint.com - Home of Carbon Footprinting](#)

SME Net Zero support links:

- SME Climate Hub - UK - [SME Climate hub \(businessclimatehub.org\)](#)

Science based target guidance and support:

- Science Based Targets Initiative - [Ambitious corporate climate action - Science Based Targets](#)

For anyone considering offsetting:

- <https://offset.climateneutralnow.org/>
- [United Nations online platform for voluntary cancellation of certified emission reductions \(CERs\) \(climateneutralnow.org\)](#)

Current standards for carbon accounting including carbon neutral – these are costed:

- [ISO 14068-1:2023 Climate change management, transition to Net Zero, Part 1: Carbon neutrality](#)
- [ISO14064-1:2018 Greenhouse gases, Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals](#)
- [PAS 2060 - Carbon Neutrality | BSI \(bsigroup.com\)](#)

Further support

- [Contact Tony Neul, Low Carbon Specialist Advisor](#) - free support for eligible SMEs
- [Zellar](#) - 400 businesses are invited to claim free access to Zellar's online sustainability platform to enable them to reduce their carbon emissions - contact us to find out more.
- [Investors in the Environment \(iE\)](#) - iE supports businesses to get started or elevate their sustainability journey - and become recognised for it!

