

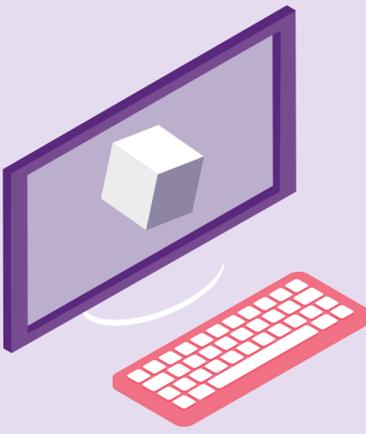
10 steps towards net zero you can take now

The government has pledged to reach net zero emissions by 2050, and it wants to bring business along with it. Here are 10 ways you can play your part and tackle climate change today

1

Measure your carbon footprint

Use an online carbon calculator to analyse and then reduce electricity, gas, water, waste, travel and materials. Calculators and impact-assessment programmes are often free to small businesses, but others may incur a charge.



3

Check out climate-friendly technology

Web-hosting is energy intensive. Green web-hosting companies try to address this by investing in carbon-offsetting schemes. Explore green web-hosting companies and check your current IT solutions provider is notifying you about its efforts to reduce its carbon footprint.

5

Audit your supply chain

Examine all your resources. What raw materials do you buy? If you're in a service industry, what food are you buying, and where does it come from? Moving to more local suppliers could help shore up supply while reducing carbon footprint.



7

Improve packaging

Check whether your packaging is recyclable, reusable or compostable. Choose plant-based packaging options that have a smaller impact on the environment. Do your research, ask questions, test concepts, consider a redesign, and adjust your pricing.



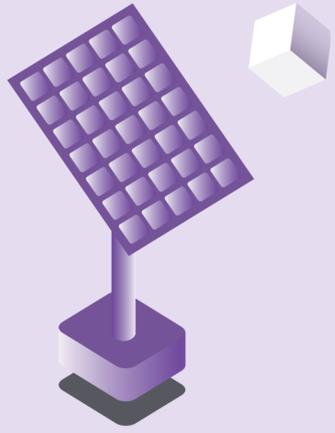
9

Improve your mindset

Set your mind to moving forward in the right direction. Efficiency is at the heart of net zero: use less, waste less. What about leasing rather than selling so you don't need to pay for raw materials or components? Check out renewable asset finance to fund a greener future.



2



Switch to renewable energy

If the origin of the energy supplied to you is 100% renewably sourced, you will make an immediate impact as your carbon emissions for electricity will be zero. You'll be contributing towards wider decarbonisation across the UK's electricity network, too.

4

Create a climate-friendly travel policy

Act now to reduce the amount of business travel in the first instance and then how to reduce overall travel distances. Ensure commuting and other business travel is done via foot, bike, public transport or electric car. Reduce mileage in favour of virtual meetings.

6



Keep learning

If you have already made climate change an action and priority, consider whether your next step should be joining a business programme that will help you grow and scale sustainably.

8

Meet goals and targets

Corporates will increasingly expect SMEs to fit into their net-zero plans. If a small business is unable to cut its carbon emissions further, it could pay to plant trees to try and ensure the impact of its business is still net zero.



10

Create a greener office

Bake energy efficiency into your workplace. Invest in LED lightbulbs, find a new home for old equipment instead of landfill, draught-proof your office, turn off lights and equipment when not in use, ban plastic cups and maximise the building's natural temperature.



NatWest