



Business Environment News

Helping business to save waste, energy, water, carbon and money



Are you working to become a low carbon business?

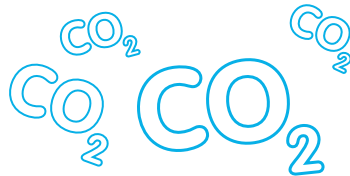
• The UK Climate Projections 2009 predict warmer, drier summers, milder, wetter winters and more extreme weather events that will affect almost every aspect of business. Fossil fuels are a finite resource and will run out at some point – becoming increasingly expensive as they became less plentiful. Volatile energy markets have seen prices double within 12 months and then halve in the following 3 months. Low carbon businesses will be more resilient to such fluctuations in the future and the associated impact on costs of materials, transport and food.

Your business can benefit by preparing for these changes.

A two pronged approach is required:

- 1. Mitigate** – reduce your business energy use, CO₂ emissions and vulnerability to energy prices.
- 2. Adapt** – prepare your business to respond to climate change that is now inevitable.

See inside for tips on meeting the low carbon challenge.



Better for your business!

• BETRE offers **free** resource efficiency services to businesses in all sectors across the whole of East Sussex, including grants, audits and training. To date we've helped East Sussex business save over **£1 million** per year.

Get in touch...

For information on our FREE services, confidential help and advice call the BETRE helpline on 01273 336777 email betre@eastsussex.gov.uk or visit www.betre.org.uk

Reduce carbon emissions by reducing water and waste



There is a carbon footprint that comes from the energy associated with producing raw materials, supplying water and managing waste for your business. Efficiency actions in all these areas will contribute to reducing your carbon footprint.

Green action grant winners

• See your waste as a resource

Jaytec Glass, a manufacturer of scientific glassware, based in Hastings has halved its packaging and waste disposal costs, saving over £1,300 per year.

Waste to landfill reduced by 7 tonnes and associated CO₂ savings by 4 tonnes per year.

Jaytec now shred 80% of their cardboard waste and use this instead of buying polystyrene packaging beads.

“BETRE gave us the knowledge and support we needed, to help identify alternative ways to recycle & reuse our cardboard waste. With the Green Action Grant, we purchased a cardboard shredding machine which has been a huge success with a payback of only 6 months and the added benefit of knowing we are doing our bit to help the environment.”

Kevin Doyle | Jaytec Glass Ltd.

“We used our Green Action Grant to upgrade lighting, install loft insulation and lag pipes. This has saved us £350 per year with a payback of less than 3 years and we’ve also reduced our CO₂ emissions by 2 tonnes per year.”

Jill Mitchell | Durrant House Guest House, Rye

Green Action Grants offer up to £500 to help your business reduce energy, water or waste. For more details – see back page or visit www.betre.org and click Green Action Grants.



BETRE team comments



Sir Nicholas Stern's review, *The Economics of Climate Change* concluded, "the benefits of strong and early action far outweigh the costs of not acting". If we don't get moving on this now, the costs will be 5-20% more of global GDP, whereas the costs of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst impacts of climate change would be around 2% of global GDP by 2050.

This newsletter contains ideas to get you started including grants, free audits and training.

We look forward to working with you, and helping East Sussex businesses to work towards a low carbon future.

Janette & Nancy
BETRE Project Managers

Printed by Greenhouse Graphics on Revive Pure White Offset, a 100% recycled product, using vegetable inks, process-less plates and alcohol-free printing for reduced VOC emissions.

Designed by Neo
The Positive Change Agency
www.neocreative.co.uk



Manage your carbon footprint and costs



- Start with actions that reduce your contribution to the causes of climate change. This means reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), through energy efficiency and using alternative forms of transport and energy. Many of the measures to help reduce emissions may also have other benefits such as saving money, increasing staff morale, encouraging customer loyalty and supporting a more sustainable society. Consider how to make your company's operations more carbon-efficient and benefit from improved productivity and a smaller carbon footprint.
- > Sign up to a renewable energy electricity tariff that is exempt from the climate change levy and is from a sustainable resource e.g. sun, wind or hydro power
- > Look at your supply chain to take account of the whole carbon lifecycle of your product
- > Explore the potential of new and renewable technologies to replace traditional fuels with green energy that do not contribute toward your footprint
- > Download a checklist of practical energy saving actions and paybacks from: www.betre.org.uk/UploadedFiles/Environmentaloptions.pdf
- > Review your business and look out for energy-intensive processes, taking appropriate steps to improve efficiency and reduce your related carbon emissions



amounts using the Carbon Trust fuel conversion charts at www.carbontrust.co.uk/resource/conversion_factors/default.htm

Any energy impacts and savings can also be reported in terms of carbon dioxide

Adapt to benefit

- There are a many reasons why you should adapt your business to climate change. More extreme weather conditions may cause significant disruption and costs and although you may be able to insure against some risks, its unlikely that this will cover indirect risks e.g. impact on staff.
- > what changes may you need to make to your premises e.g. better cooling, more shade, improved drainage
- > if changes to working practices may be necessary

Taking practical steps can help you to avoid disruption and limit future costs. You may even be able to spot new business opportunities. For example, you need to assess and consider:

> the risks to current operations, such as from flooding or extreme weather conditions

> how robust your supply chain is

> will your products and services still be required

- > To get your low carbon adaptation plan in place:

To get your low carbon adaptation plan in place:

- 1. Assign responsibility** – identify who in your company is going to be responsible. Involve employees from a range of business functions, to draw on their different expertise. Talk to your suppliers, contractors, customers, competitors, regulators and trade organisations, share your ideas and information and spread the risk.
- 2. Identify risks and opportunities** – how have/could weather related events affect your particular business and your sector overall?

For example, will they affect deliveries, cause an increase or decrease in sales, damage stock or increase the likelihood of staff absence or illness?

3. Integrate into your business strategy – think about how your climate change plans fit into other business areas such as risk management, health and safety arrangements or business continuity planning. Obtain support and resource commitment from senior management.

4. Implement your plan – product development, moving premises or reviewing contractual arrangements all offer the ideal opportunity to build in climate change issues.

5. Make the most of free support and guidance – see opposite page for useful contacts.



Useful contacts to help your business deal with climate change

• **UK Climate Impacts Programme** www.ukcip.org.uk
Tel: 01865 285 717

Climate Change information with a UK focus including a useful online “climate adaptation wizard tool” for businesses. This uses a 5-step process to help you assess your vulnerability to current and future climate change, identify options to address your key climate risks, and help you to develop a climate change adaptation strategy.

UK Climate Projections 2009 to find out more about the projections and their full range of information and support, go to <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>

Environment Agency – Flood Risk information Floodline 0845 988 1188 (24 hour service).

Flood maps at: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods

Climate South East www.climatesoutheast.org.uk for region focused publications, guidance, case studies and other resources.

Business Link for business focused and practical tips on adapting to climate change see their website at: www.businesslink.gov.uk and then select – Home/Environment & Efficiency/Managing Environmental Issues in your business/adapt your business to the effects of climate change.

Financial support to help reduce your business carbon footprint

BETRE Green Action Grants

Offer 50% match funding, up to a maximum of £500, towards the costs of your business implementing a resource saving idea. Examples include: the upgrading to energy efficient lighting, a cardboard baler, rainwater harvesting and passive infra-red urinal controls. To download an application form visit: www.betre.org.uk

Energy Grant 500 Call: Business Link is offering a grant of up to £500 to implement changes that will result in reduced energy costs and a smaller carbon footprint.

It's available to any business (not home based) with a current energy spend of between £1,500 and £30,000 pa.

Businesses are loaned an energy monitor for 2-10 weeks, to identify where energy savings could be made. Once energy actions have been identified you can apply for a grant.

The Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme visit www.eca.gov.uk for details on the Energy and Water Technology Lists of equipment with proven efficiency savings.

Investment in eligible equipment can be written off 100% against corporation tax in the year of purchase. Equipment to be fitted in new build is not eligible but is allowed for refurbishments e.g. upgrading lighting. Tel: 0800 085 2005.

The Carbon Trust Loans www.carbontrust.co.uk/energy/takingaction/aboutloans.htm or call 0800 085 2005. Interest free loans of between £3,000-£400,000 are repayable over 4 years, to enable an energy efficiency or renewable action to be implemented.

The Carbon Trust also provides excellent free publications and other information to support energy efficiency initiatives in the workplace www.carbontrust.co.uk/publications

Envirowise offers UK businesses free, independent, confidential advice and support in practical ways to increase profits, minimise waste and reduce environmental impact. For example the Green Efficiency guide ref GG256 See www.envirowise.gov.uk/greenefficiency or call 0800 585 794.



East Sussex BETRE FREE services

Training events

- > SUMS events
- > Environmental Management Systems
- > Carbon Management
- > Food Waste

Practical ½ day workshops giving tips on saving waste, energy and water.

“The best course in years! Business people can’t spend a lot of time on non core issues; it showed how easy it is to make savings”

Deborah Howlett
Action for Change

Environmental reviews

A half day FREE confidential review of your energy, water and waste bills, carrying out a short site survey and providing you with a detailed report on savings opportunities and legislation.

“Thank you very much for your excellent report. I really appreciate the trouble you have taken over this and it is very useful”

Christopher Strangeways
Bosney Farm

Helpline advice

Practical advice on environmental legislation, managing waste, including hazardous waste and improving energy and water efficiency in your business.

“Most helpful by professional advisors. I would recommend it to any business. A superb service”

Kate Myrlea
Manor Farm Oast

Green action grants

50% (up to £500) towards the cost of implementing actions to reduce waste, energy or water.

Available on a first come first served basis.

“Applying for a grant was very easy!”

Susie Hill
Berforts Ltd



To find out more or apply for any of our services call us on 01273 336777 or email betre@eastsussex.gov.uk

Events calendar 2009-2010

Places are limited so book now to ensure your place! To book online visit: www.betre.org.uk and click on ‘Training events’

FREE Events – Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for your staff	Date	Location
Simple Utilities Management Seminar (SUMS) Two linked, ½ day workshops, help businesses to effectively manage utility costs, saving on energy water and waste. Workshops run from 09.00 to 13.00 and include: > Spotting improvement areas using data from your bills > Tips for saving on waste, water and energy bills > Practical exercises and business case studies > Expert presentations from technical professionals > Learn to self audit your business and engage your staff	Workshop 1 21 October 2009 Workshop 2 04 November 2009 March 2010 April 2010 May 2010 October 2010 November 2010	Eastbourne Hastings Brighton Battle Bexhill Lewes
The easy way to Environmental Management Systems (EMS) 3 x 1 day workshops to enable you to implement EMS into your business in 3 manageable and convenient stages – following the set stages of the BS8555 EMS standard.	18 November 2009 27 January 2010 and 21 April 2010	Brighton
Organics half day event Find out about food waste composting, the legislation and practicalities and a trial project with Lewes businesses.	24th March 2010	Lewes
Climate change and carbon management – 1 day event Help your organisation to prepare and adapt for climate change, calculate your carbon footprint, learn about carbon offsetting and find out about renewable energy technology.	19th May 2010	Eastbourne
Enviroskills ½ day and 1 day SUBSIDISED events Accredited courses on a variety of environmental skills and topics. Visit www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast/enviroskills Phone: 0845 600 9006	Now until Dec 2010. some events are free if booked before end Sept 2009)	Across the South East

Funded by



East Sussex betre, a project part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), is run by the East Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership (SBP), made up of all East Sussex Local Authorities, Brighton & Hove Council, the Environment Agency, Business Link Sussex and supported by SEEDA and GOSE.