



## Why Focus On Climate Change?

On 20 March 2023, the International Panel for Climate Change released its [sixth report](#). It said "Time is running out. The climate time-bomb is ticking. If we act now, we can still secure a liveable, sustainable future for all. But it will take a quantum leap in climate action."

Climate change is real. Historic emissions from burning fossil fuels creates a situation we cannot easily resolve. To keep within critical temperatures, we have to halt greenhouse gas emission growth by 2025 and halve emissions by 2030. It is doable but it needs strong and concerted action.

- The Government has mandated that large companies disclose climate based information on an annual basis. The aim of this to ensure that these businesses consider the risks and opportunities facing them; cut emissions; and include sustainability in their plans.
- With strict legal targets which Government must meet, these regulations are expected to expand in 2024/25.
- Even if we cut emissions significantly there are likely to be more floods, fires, storms and droughts in coming years.
- Planning for this and doing all we can to avoid the worst impacts makes sense for businesses whatever their size

There are many reasons for leading with sustainability. Companies focusing on emissions can:

- Save costs and improve business efficiency
- Capitalise on the **doubling in interest** of carbon neutrality and reducing carbon footprint
- Plan measures to cope with the worst weather hazards that are likely in coming years, and
- Demonstrate to stakeholders, including investors, that the company is run on a sound basis.

“We are the first generation to know that we are destroying the world, and the last that can do anything about it. This is a wake-up call for the world and business leaders alike.”

Tanya Steele, CEO, WWF UK

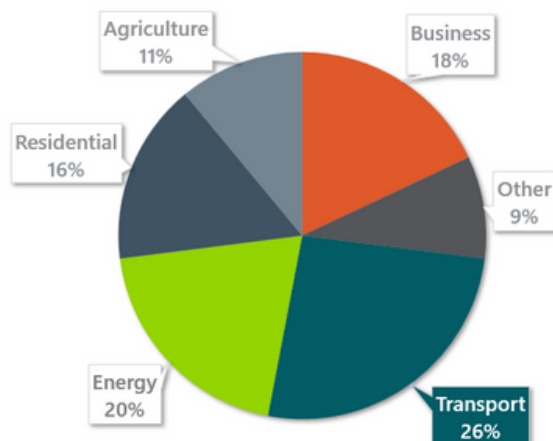
## What Can Organisations and Individuals Do?

The [figure right](#) shows the emissions per sector across the UK. Tackling the largest sectors offers the greatest payback in terms of cutting carbon footprint.

### UK CO2 Emissions per Sector 2021

In 2021, transport accounted for **26 per cent of all UK emissions**, 90 per cent of which was due to road transport.

The next biggest sectors were **energy**, accounting for **20 per cent** and **business**, **18 per cent**, of all emissions.





## Cut Your Emissions - Top Tips

Every business can cut their carbon footprint. You simply need to work out where the biggest impacts lie. Most use transport, energy and IT and many of the changes are simple too. Wherever possible:

### Minimise journeys and maximise loads

Optimising trips makes sense for everyone. So, why not fill up empty delivery space or combine similar trips? Or encourage car sharing, active travel and sustainable transport if you're a service company.

These all cut emissions and most improve mental health and profitability too.

### Swap to renewable energy

Moving heating, lighting and IT systems to renewable energy is one of the best things a business can do.

The largest cloud providers are all moving to renewables, so capitalise on that and save up to 88 per cent of your emissions compared with onsite provision.

### Cut emissions in the office

From switching off laptops to boiling small amounts of water, there are lots of ways to save emissions in the office. Why not introduce **Carbon Literacy Project Training** to educate staff in all they can do?

### Reduce your energy bills

Lowering heating and aircon temperatures makes a massive difference to your emissions and your costs.

A drop of one or two degrees can save 5 to 10 per cent of your total energy.

### Reduce, reuse, recycle

It's easy to cut emissions when you focus on the circularity principle.

From printing and packaging, to equipment, food and waste, there are plenty of ways you can save.

## Case Studies - What Have Other Businesses Done?

### Microsoft

Carbon neutral since 2012, **Microsoft** has now committed to removing all the carbon the company has ever emitted, directly or by electrical consumption, by 2050.

### Tesco

**Tesco** has cut 1.6 billion items of plastic and reduced food waste by 45%, including setting up of a waste market for suppliers, installing wind turbines at depots and solar panels on retail sites. And it operates over 200 electric vans across Greater London.

## Won't It Cost More?

Shifting to sustainable operations needn't cost more. Indeed Oxford researchers say the world could save **\$12 trillion** by moving quickly to renewable energy. Every industry has areas where they can save or improve profitability by focusing on sustainability.

## Act Now!!

We've no time to lose, so please start cutting emissions now. If you don't have time or manpower to work out what's best, that's not a problem. **Get in touch** and we'll identify some quick wins and some longer term areas to focus on for the future. Just drop us an email on the link below.