



Why Focus On Sustainability?

Man made climate change is real. Historic emissions from burning fossil fuels have left us with a situation we can't easily resolve. Core earth and weather temperatures are rising and likely to get worse. Experts say we have to halt greenhouse gas emission growth by 2025 and halve emissions by 2030 to keep within the 1.5 degree increase, critical to climate change..

Even if we significantly change how we live, we're likely to experience more storms, flooding, fire, and droughts from now on. Planning for this and doing everything we can to cut emissions makes sense for businesses, whatever their size.

- Retail, in the form of "Consumer expenditure" is responsible for **215 million tonnes of CO2** each year, making it one of the greatest contributors to Greenhouse gases (**26 per cent of all emissions**).
- Consumers, investors, employees and the media are increasingly interested in how companies are dealing with climate change and are voting with their feet if they don't like what they see.
- This is particularly true of the retail industry where the "throw away" culture is being replaced with a focus on more sustainable production, as well as reducing, recycling and reusing products.

“Climate change is the greatest crisis humanity has ever faced. We have built a consumer society that is killing our planet.”

Mary Portas, Portas

Retail businesses have particular reason for focusing on sustainability. Companies reducing emissions can:

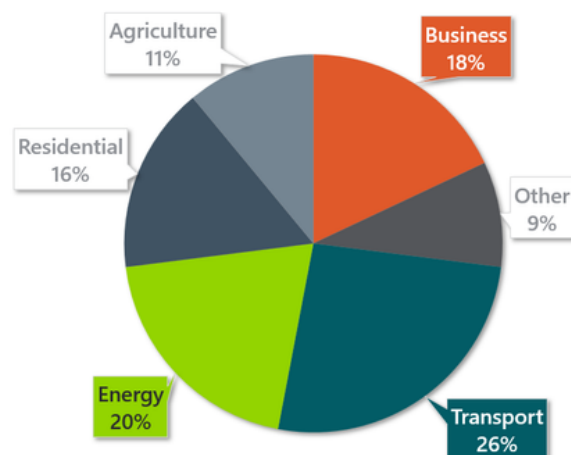
- Capitalise on the **81 per cent of consumers** who intend to buy more eco friendly products
- Gain competitive advantage by carrying out activities and promotions based on climate friendly activities, and
- Reduce risk by catering for the most extreme weather impacts likely to affect their business.

What Can Retailers and High Street Outlets Do?

The **graph right** shows where the greatest emissions lie by sector. In 2021, **the three largest sectors** in the UK were **transport** (26 per cent), **energy** (20 per cent) and **business** (18 per cent).

These are all areas retailers can positively influence, by looking at their supply chains, retail operations, and product/service portfolios.

Energy, in particular, is an area which most businesses can influence fairly easily and can provide significant benefits in terms of impact on the bottom line.





Lead With Sustainability: Retail & the High Street

Reduce Your Emissions - Top Tips

While transport offers greatest opportunity for cutting emissions, energy usage may be quicker and easier for retailers to influence. Here's a few ideas on things high street outlets can do:

Reduce heating within your premises

One of the easiest ways to reduce costs and emissions is to cut your heating.

Keep doors closed or drop the temperature 1 degree. Or turn off heating half an hour before closing time to gain an easy 6 per cent improvement in energy fees.

Maximise loads and minimise journeys

Optimising trips, for deliveries, commuting or business travel, makes sense from a cost and emissions point of view.

Can stock be delivered at better times? Is it possible to improve or optimise loads? Savings in fuel lead to cuts in costs, and of course leads to drops in emissions too.

How green is your product?

Many retailers are capitalising on the swing in interest to sustainable products.

Can you make use of waste?
Improve your supply chain?
Use recycled, ethical, or natural products?

Swap to renewable energy

Renewable energy makes every business greener. LED and intelligent lighting make a big difference too.

Want to do more? Check out solar panels or heat pumps for greenest provision.

Reduce, recycle, reuse

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

From excess packaging and food waste to receipts and repair. Check your operations for ways you can save.

Case Studies - What Have Other Retailers Done?

Tesco

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

IKEA

IKEA was synonymous with sustainability from the start. It uses sustainable store fitments, produces toys from ocean recovered plastic, heats stores with geothermal heating, and harvests rainwater to reduce store water consumption by 50 per cent.

Won't It Cost More?

As can be seen, 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 increase income by focusing on sustainability.

Act Now!

We've no time to lose, so please do all you can and start cutting emissions now. If you don't have time or manpower to work out what to do **get in touch**. 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.