

Reduce our footprint

30 MIN
TOOLBOX TALK

- Climate change
- Greenhouse gases
- Why we should act?
- What can we do?

What is climate change?

Climate change is the one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world today. Rising global temperatures due to Greenhouse Gases are bringing changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather. All over the world this threatens the way we live our lives, our homes, our businesses, our food supply, our security.

What are greenhouse gases?

The key greenhouse gas emissions are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride.

Carbon dioxide accounts for about 75% of global emissions and is expected to be responsible for about two thirds of the anticipated future warming.

Human activities release greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere - using electricity generated from fossil fuel power stations, burning gas for heating or driving a car.

Within the UK greenhouse gas emissions from the business sector account for around 18% of overall emissions.



Discussion

What simple steps can be taken to reduce our emissions?

Why reduce?

Doing our bit

Customer expectation

New market opportunity

Future proofing

Community good will

Cuts costs

Better for environment

Social responsibility

Funding sources

Sustainability



Tips on reducing

CONSERVING ENERGY

Have you got any tips to add?



- Ensure all lighting, heating and electrical equipment is switched off when not in use. Switch devices off, don't just leave on standby. Use natural light if you can.

- Utilise timers and automatic controls. Turn down the thermostat; even 1 degree makes a difference.

- Switch to more energy efficient equipment e.g. LED lighting. Look at the energy ratings on new equipment purchases.

- Make sure that the surfaces of tube lights and lamps are regularly cleaned as this blocks light.

- Make sure all equipment is maintained and well looked after. Utilising equipment sensibly (i.e. only fill the kettle in relation to the number drinks you are making).

- Use public transport, car sharing, or consider online meetings/events. Keep tyres at right pressure, and accelerate smoothly, where practicable, use cruise control.

- Do a digital spring clean! Lower your carbon footprint by deleting all unnecessary files, apps, photos and videos.



Everything we buy has a carbon cost. Around 80% of our societal carbon footprint can be directly attributed to the products, services and materials we consume. When procuring goods and services think about buying local, reducing the travel time of goods/services, and buying from sustainable suppliers. Reducing the amount of packaging we use and asking suppliers to do the same can cut carbon costs.

Follow the principles of Eliminate, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

DID YOU KNOW?

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- Involve friends, colleagues, family and increase awareness of emission reducing activities through conversation, social media groups, campaigns, staff meetings, placing stickers above light switches and putting posters around the building.

- Start small with group initiatives to make a difference, it may be car sharing once a fortnight - it all makes a difference.

- Create Carbon Ambassadors, share new initiatives to reduce emissions and celebrate successes.

