

Solving IT together



The **DTP** Group

Guide To being Green.

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Green; the word is getting used more and more in today's society. But are we actually doing anything Green as businesses or as individuals to help the environment?

In the 21st century climate change is no longer a questionable threat on the horizon but a definite reality existing here and now. As a result, government officials, the business world and society as a whole must recognise the need to take immediate action.

This document is designed to make you aware of some of the things you can do to help reduce the effect we as people have on the environment.

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FACT

A compact fluorescent light bulb uses 75% less energy than a normal bulb - and can last up to four years.

Reducing Waste

The need for businesses to act is being fuelled by pressure from both legislation and customers to reduce the environmental impact of their products. Businesses need to look carefully at both the products themselves and how they are made. Cleaner product design means minimising a product's environmental impact over its entire lifetime and still meeting customer requirements.

Did you Know?

- There are millions of tonnes of office waste produced every year from photocopying to plastic coffee cups to unwanted PC's.
- The cost of managing and treating the waste can be up to 5-20 times more than the cost of disposal.
- Buildings produce around 72.5million tones of waste each year.
- According to the Scottish oil campaign, waste oil for nearly 3 million car oil changes in Britain is not collected. If collected properly this could meet the annual energy needs of 1.5 million people.

A few things you can do

So simple

You can save 10 tonnes of waste by re-manufacturing 10old office desks instead of throwing them out or donating 400 old PC's to charity for reuse in developing countries. Get people to think twice by making it more difficult to throw things away, i.e. install easily accessible central recycling facilities.

Easy when you know how

Check on the recyclability of the material being used and for the embodied energy content (the energy which has been used to make the product). Encourage suppliers and contractors to take back waste for re-use and recycling.



FACT

On average, each person in the UK produces half a tonne of rubbish each year.

Re-using & Recycling

Recycling reduces CO₂; generally less energy (electricity, transport etc) is used in remaking something as opposed to originating it. The WEEE directive which came into force in 2007 aims to promote re-use and recycling.

Did you know?

- 1 recycled tin can would save enough energy to power a television for 3 hours
- 1 recycled glass bottle would save enough energy to power a computer for 25 minutes
- 1 recycled plastic bottle would save enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for 3 hours
- 70% less energy is required to recycle paper compared with making it from raw materials

A few things you can do

So simple

Get in touch with your local council to discuss installing recycling in your office; 9 out of 10 people would recycle more if it was made easier. Alternatively, there are a numerous companies who will take your recycling off your hands on a regular or one off basis, for a minimum fee. You'll save a football pitch of trees after just one year if you get 90 office based staff to recycle their waste paper.

Easy when you know how

Drink out of reusable cups; if an office of 11 people (using a cup a day each) stopped using plastic disposable cups they would save 1 tonne of CO₂ a year.



FACT

On average, each person in the UK produces half a tonne of rubbish each year.

Buying Green

Not only can you make a difference, you can convince others to follow. Every organisation is part of a supply chain; from the people you buy your photocopier paper from to the company that cleans your offices. When you adopt 'green' practices you are not only leading by example, you are making a statement about the nature of your business. The greatest benefits are derived by extending the focus as far as possible upstream towards the raw materials, downstream towards the customers and then back again as the product and waste are recycled.

A few things you can do

So Simple

Save 1kg of CO2 by asking your supplier to deliver two re-usable milk bottles instead of plastic cartons. Seek out products which can be recycled, sold or donated when you've finished with them and which don't come with too much packaging.

Easy when you know how

Before you buy, look at whether the products have an environmental energy rating or water rating label. Can you make it policy to buy products that have Energy Star features or a 'sleep' mode for when they are not being used? Ask for suppliers' environmental credentials and implement valuable 'green' criteria e.g. a climate change policy.



FACT

Glass containers are environmentally superior packaging- non toxic, high value and completely recyclable. In fact an estimated 80% glass containers are made into new glass bottles.

Measuring

FACT

To offset the annual carbon emissions of the UK you would have to plant trees to cover an area equivalent to twice the size of the UK.

With all this discourse surrounding climate change circulating in society, more and more companies are measuring, cutting and reporting their CO2 emissions. "Carbon down, profits up" is a report issued by The Climate Control Group, listing 74 companies from 11 countries across 18 industries, which are committed to cutting greenhouse-gas emissions. So far, the report estimates that they have saved themselves a combined total of \$11.6 billion. Four of the firms (Bayer, British Telecom, DuPont, and Norske Canada) account for \$4 billion of it alone. It has also been announced that 80% of the FTSE 100 are integrating climate change policy into their core business practices.

A few things you can do

So Simple

A hands on approach to saving money and reducing your carbon footprint.

Make your mark in business; not on the environment. DTP can help!! We're offering a free, non intrusive snapshot audit of your current business environment. Our consultants will provide an optimised infrastructure design and deliver valuable recommendations on how you can:

- Improve efficiency
- Generate Significant cost savings
- Greatly reduce your overall carbon footprint

Simply call or email DTP for further details.

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Or visit www.dtpgroup.co.uk/solutionpaths/mpcs



Reducing CO2 Emissions

Greenhouse gases have a long life span and diffuse over large areas, meaning the effect on climate change is the same wherever they are released. Some sources are more difficult to reduce emissions from than others e.g. those released during air travel are relatively hard. However it is possible to reduce CO2 to net zero by measuring and reducing and then offsetting unavoidable emissions. Offsetting works by saving 1 tonne of CO2 you produce. Such projects range from small scale community based projects through to large-scale industrial programmes.

A few things you can do

Here are some examples of how you can offset unavoidable CO2

1 tonne of CO2

- One year of swapping 5 standard light bulbs for 5 energy saving ones.
- One or two trees grown to maturity soak up 1 tonne of CO2 over their lifetime. The amount depends on the species of tree. Trees can be seen as a temporary measure soaking up CO2 as once burned, the CO2 is released back into the atmosphere. Therefore their upkeep must be managed. Also, recent studies show that for maximum efficiency the trees should be planted in warm or tropical areas.

10 tonnes of CO2

After one year of swapping the traditional kerosene burners used for light in Sri Lanka, for 30 solar panels, 10 tonnes of CO2 were saved. This also helped improve local health conditions. An energy project in Kenya, using wind power rather than fossil fuels is likely to save up to 10 tonnes of CO2 in only 10 days.

100 tonnes of CO2

After three days of swapping fossil fuel for the power generated from hydroelectric plant in Bulgaria 100 tonnes of CO2 were saved. Another example is in a Hungarian offsetting project, fossil fuel was swapped for the power generated from a biomass scheme in Hungary, this saved over 100 tonnes in nine days.

FACT

A moderate sized server in a data centre of a large financial services organisation has about the same annual carbon footprint as a gas guzzling family SUV doing 15 MPG.

Saving Energy

In the UK, we waste the equivalent of around two power stations worth of electricity each year by leaving TV sets, gadgets and other modern home comforts on standby. Would you believe that 8% of all domestic electricity consumption is wasted by appliances being left on standby, costing British households approximately £247 million per year; energy and money that could easily be saved by pressing the 'off' button.

Not only is this bad news for the environment; it's not good for human productivity either. In Britain, we are all responsible for cranking up the heating in the cold weather but did you know that your concentration levels reduce by up to 50% in an office if the temperature rises above 24C?

A few simple things you can do

So Simple

Next time you're away from your desk for a considerable length of time, switch off your computer screen. If 20 people followed suit, you could save 1kg of CO2 in one hour. Using an energy saving light bulb over four days instead of a standard 100w bulb will also save you the same amount.

Buy an MFP (multi function device) instead of buying four individual devices. An MFP can print, fax, copy and scan; meaning you eliminate the need to power four separate devices; saving you energy and money.

FACT

A computer left on all the time costs about £37 a year to run. If switched off at night and weekends, it costs £10 a year and saves enough energy to make almost 35,000 cups of coffee.



We hope you found this document useful.

Just remember.....

The little things we do can make a **BIG** difference to
our world!!

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