

# Cirencester Chamber of Commerce

## Future Proof Your Business

A guide for local businesses to improve their impact on the environment and society, enabling a better future for all, while future proofing of businesses and the community in and around Cirencester.

Welcome to the first edition of the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce **Future Proof Your Business** information pack.

We will be adding to and updating this throughout the year, so do check back regularly. Also look out for our **Lunch n' Learn** sessions to discover more and be inspired by others.

In this guide, we help demystify some of the **basics** and the terminology around environmental and social sustainability. We **signpost** where you can get support and services for your business. And, we **showcase** some of the incredible work already being undertaken by local organisations to ensure they are future proofing their business.

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## Why are we doing this?

The role of the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce is to support the improvement of the prosperity of its Members.

As a society, we are now aware of human impacts on the natural world and society: carbon, waste, biodiversity loss, injustice and more.

We know we must transition to reducing and eliminating our negative impacts, then going beyond to improving and regeneration.

It can seem overwhelming and daunting but there is support out there and there are many organisations doing incredible work to refocus their operations, putting people, planet and purpose at the core of how they work and seeing many improvements in return.

If you are already on this path, you may find inspiration in this pack to do more. If you don't know where to start or are not even aware you need to be transitioning, then this pack should help with those crucial first steps.

We hope you will find the information is both optimistic and inspiring.

## Why should you care?

Simply put, it's a better way of doing business.

- Improve operational costs and increase profits
- Provide clarity on your purpose and strategy
- Respond to supply-chain demands
- Respond to customers demands
- Enhance your reputation
- Be desirable for future recruitment and retention of staff
- Align to legislation current and incoming
- Future proof your business
- Act local to have a global impact

***“Businesses that fail to adapt,  
will fail to exist.”***

Quote from Mark Carney, when  
governor of the Bank of England


# Key Info

In this section, we introduce you to some of the terminology around environmental and social impacts and actions that affect business in the UK. This is not an exhaustive list, more an introduction and background context.

### **Kyoto Protocol**

The Kyoto Protocol was an international treaty commits State parties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, based on the scientific consensus that global warming is occurring and that human-made CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are driving it. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005 pursuing efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The UK is one of 192 parties signed up to the agreement.

### **Paris Agreement 2015**

An international treaty on climate change. The Agreement sets long-term goals to guide all nations. Each country commits to ambitious climate action to be carried out. [The Paris Agreement | United Nations](#) 

### **United Nations (UN)**

The UN has one central mission: the maintenance of international peace and security. Today they stand for peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet. The UK is a member state.

### **UNFCCC**

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) entered into force on 21 March 1994. Over 198 countries (including the UK) have ratified the Convention, they are called Parties to the Convention. Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.

### **COP26 and COP27**

COP stands for Conference of the Parties. They are attended by countries signed up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994. The 2022 COP meeting was the 27th to be held.

At COP26 in Glasgow, the UK committed to Net Zero by 2050. At COP27 the UK agreed to contribute to a Loss and Damage fund for nations affected by negative climate impacts produced by other nations.

[COP27-Key-outcomes-and-next-steps-for-the-UK.pdf \(theccc.org.uk\)](#) 

### **UN IPCC**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change

### **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)**

There are 17 UN SDGs which recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequalities, and put economic growth. Tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests underpins these. The UK has agreed to mobilise the UN SDGs.

### **UN Decade of Action**

The Decade of Action to deliver on the SDGs is 2020 to 2030. The Decade of Action calls for accelerating sustainable solutions to all the world’s biggest challenges — ranging from poverty and gender to climate change, inequality and closing the finance gap.

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**1** NO POVERTY



**2** ZERO HUNGER



**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



**5** GENDER EQUALITY




**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



**13** CLIMATE ACTION



**14** LIFE BELOW WATER



**15** LIFE ON LAND



**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



### **UN Global Compact Network UK**

An independent not-for-profit organisation. Aims to promote charitable sustainable development, relieve poverty, preserve and protect the environment, and promote ethical standards and conduct within businesses and the private sector in the UK.

### **Climate Change Committee**

An independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008. Purpose to advise the UK and devolved governments on emissions targets and to report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

### **Climate Change Act 2008**

The Act mandates an overall 100% cut in six greenhouse gases by 2050.

### **Net Zero Legislation**

In June 2019, the UK became the first major economy in the world to pass laws that require the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

### **Equality Act 2010**

Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination (gender, race, disability) in the workplace and in wider society.

### **The Better Business Act Campaign**

A campaign led by B Lab UK gathering backing at pace, 1000+ companies have chosen to be part of the coalition for a cleaner, greener, fairer future for all. The Better Business Act will transform the way we do business, so that every single company in the UK, whether big or small, takes ownership of its social and environmental impact.

[About The Better Business Act - Better Business Act](#)

### **Green Claims Code**

Competition & Markets Authority (CMA) has developed the Green Claims Code – which sets out 6 key points to check your environmental claims are genuinely green.

### **UN Race to Zero Campaign**

Race To Zero is a global campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth.

### **SME Climate Hub**

The SME Climate Hub is a global initiative that empowers small to medium sized companies to take climate action and build resilient businesses for the future.

### **Climate Change Advisory Group**

The Climate Crisis Advisory Group (CCAG) helps inform the public, governments and financial institutions providing them with the most comprehensive science, and more crucially, guiding them towards action for climate repair.



### **Cotswold District Council**

In July 2019 CDC declared a climate emergency. Their response to this means we have committed to:

- making our activities net-zero carbon as soon as possible, aiming for an 80% reduction against a 1990 baseline by 2030, and a 100% reduction by 2045, with no reliance on offsetting or the trading of carbon credits
- achieving 100% clean energy use across our full range of functions as soon as possible, and no later than 2030
- embedding climate emergency considerations in all work areas, decision-making processes, policies and strategies.
- appointing a Climate Emergency Manager
- reviewing the Local Plan to ensure it is “green to the core”
- reporting on the level of our fossil fuel investment
- taking a leadership role on the climate emergency in the Cotswolds
- establishing a Climate Change Panel, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses and others relevant parties, to help shape and promote the district’s zero-carbon strategy

<https://cotswold.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/>

### **Cotswold Climate Investment**

CCI to give residents the chance to invest directly in actions that tackle the climate and ecology crises. the fund will make a real difference towards delivering the Council’s 2030 vision to cut emissions, increase active travel and create safer, cleaner streets across the District.

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/cci ->

### **Gloucestershire Climate Commitment**

Asking all businesses in Gloucestershire to commit to Net Zero Emissions by 2050 at the latest, and to join the “Race to Zero” at the UK Business Climate Hub (for SMEs) or Business Ambition for 1.5°C (for Large companies).

Resources section includes links to useful information, services and online tools that will help you on your Net Zero journey.

<https://www.climatecommitment.co.uk/the-commitment/>

### **Cirencester Town Council**

In 2019, Cirencester Town Council declared a Climate Emergency. Cirencester Town Council Action Plan 2022 – 2023., See link at end of this page:

<https://cirencester.gov.uk/new-blog/2022/8/1/climate-emergency-our-response>

### **Gloucestershire County Council**

Greener Gloucestershire - climate dashboard. What you can do? <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/climate-change/greener-gloucestershire-climate-dashboard/what-can-you-do/>

# Glossary

### **Greenhouse Gases (GHG)**

Greenhouse gases are gasses that trap heat in the atmosphere and warm the planet. The main gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and water vapor.

### **Greenhouse Gas Protocol**

GHG Protocol supplies the world's most widely used greenhouse gas accounting standards.

### **Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi)**

The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) drives ambitious climate action in the private sector by enabling organisations to set science-based emissions reduction targets, in keeping with 1.5°C pathway global warming target set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

### **Net Zero**

Net Zero means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere, by oceans and forests for instance. Reducing Scopes 1 & 2 to zero and Scope 3 as close to zero.

### **Scopes 1, 2 & 3 emissions**

GHG emissions are broken into three categories. Scope 1 all direct emissions. Scope 2. Company controlled. Scope 3. Indirect in value chain.

### **Carbon Neutral**

purchasing carbon reduction credits equivalent to emissions released, without the need for emissions reductions to have taken place.

### **Carbon Negative**

Carbon negative goes one step further than carbon neutral. It is about removing more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than you emit.

### **Carbon Positive**

Going a step further than carbon neutral, by saving more greenhouse gas emissions than you are generating.

### **Carbon Removal**

Carbon removal is the process of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and locking it away for decades, centuries, or millennia.

### **Triple Bottom Line**

Aims to measure the financial, social, and environmental performance of a company over time.

The concept behind the triple bottom line is that companies should focus as much on social and environmental issues as they do on profits.

### **ESG**

Environmental, Social and Governance. The investment community is increasingly using an organisations' ESG credentials to make informed investment decisions.

### **CSR**

Corporate Social Responsibility is the concept of a company integrating social and environmental concerns into their business operations.

### **Social Value**

An umbrella term to describe wider economic, social and environmental effects of a business' actions.

### **Offsetting**

The process of compensating for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by financing projects designed to make equivalent reductions of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in exchange for carbon credits

### **Greenwashing**

Misleading or unsubstantiated claims, causes people to believe greater environmental benefit.

### **Circular Economy**

Production and consumption principles to eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials, regenerate nature.

### **Sustainability**

Tip: 'sustainability', can mean so many things, it's vague and overused. Instead, talk about what the impact actually is, and what the solutions can be.

# Top Tips

### **Energy**

You can't manage what you don't measure. Start by looking at your energy consumption and ways to reduce usage.

### **Transport**

Can you or your team car-share, use public transport, or use bikes. Reduce your mileage and the mileage of your business connections.

### **Green Server**

Is your website hosted on a server using green energy.

### **Banking and Investments**

Is your bank ethical?

### **Pensions**

What do your pension funds support? Do they give back to the planet and society or are they damaging?

### **Green Teams**

The people within your organisation can spearhead initiatives to drive positive change.

### **Volunteer Days**

Increase your social value through skills sharing or helping out at local initiatives.

### **Projects / charity**

Look for local initiatives that are supporting and restoring nature and biodiversity. Or local charities, groups and schools.

### **Food**

Buy local and seasonal.  
Look for organic options.  
Minimal processing.  
Ask questions about where the food comes from and how it's made.

### **Water**

Can you reduce your water consumption – reducing flow, low flush toilets, reuse grey water.

### **Local**

Doing business locally can support both local and global society and the planet. Think local, act global.

### **Biodiversity**

Can you have planters, shrubs, trees in or near your office space to welcome wildlife in and create enjoyable spaces for your teams?

### **Waste**

Can you reduce waste in your office or operations. Can the waste you produce be reused. What methods do you have for recycling.

### **The 4 Rs**

Reduce, Refuse, Reuse, Recycle.

### **Be curious**

Question your operations, actions and processes. Understand them and then ask: what can be done differently and better?

# Signposting

### **Cotswold District Council**

Net Zero Carbon Toolkit  
[cotswold.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/how-to-achieve-net-zero-carbon-homes/](https://cotswold.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/how-to-achieve-net-zero-carbon-homes/)

### **Ecologi Zero Beta**

Calculate your business's carbon footprint for free.  
[ecologi.com/business/zero](https://ecologi.com/business/zero)

### **WWF Resource Hub for Business**

Specifically for businesses to understand and reduce impact for a better future. Including carbon, pensions, policies  
<https://www.wwf.org.uk/what-your-business-can-do/resources-hub>

### **CMA Green Claims Code Checker**

Green Claims Code Checker, to help you ensure your green claims are genuine and not misleading.  
[greenclaims.campaign.gov.uk](https://greenclaims.campaign.gov.uk)

### **Cirencester Growth Hub**

Net Zero Tools, Resources and Advice  
[thegrowthhub.biz/netzero](https://thegrowthhub.biz/netzero)

### **CCoC Together Gloucestershire**

Connecting Local Businesses  
[togethergloucestershire.co.uk/](https://togethergloucestershire.co.uk/)

### **Green Web Foundation**

Fossil-free Internet  
[thegreenwebfoundation.org](https://thegreenwebfoundation.org)

### **Pensions: Make My Money Matter**

Know where your pension money goes.  
[makemymoneymatter.co.uk](https://makemymoneymatter.co.uk)

### **Governance**

SME Governance Guidebook from IFC  
[www.ifc.org](https://www.ifc.org)

### **Social Value Portal**

A tool to procure, measure, manage and report social value  
[socialvalueportal.com](https://socialvalueportal.com)

### **1% For The Planet**

A global network of businesses, individuals and Environmental Partners donating 1% of profits  
[onepercentfortheplanet.org](https://onepercentfortheplanet.org)

### **Project Seagrass**

Devoted to the conservation of seagrass ecosystems through research, community and action.  
[projectseagrass.org](https://projectseagrass.org)

### **Ellen McArthur Foundation**

Moving from a linear process to a circular economy to stop waste being produced in the first place.  
[ellenmacarthurfoundation.org](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org)

### **Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust**

Mission to value nature. Preserve, recreate and reconnect Gloucestershire's wild places.  
[gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk](https://gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk)

### **What happens to our recycling?**

[cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/what-happens-to-your-recycling](https://cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/what-happens-to-your-recycling)

### **Where to recycle random things**

such as batteries, clothes, electricals, plastic bags, soft plastics and more  
[recyclenow.com/recycling-locator](https://recyclenow.com/recycling-locator)

### **Waste wizard**

[cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/reduce-and-reuse-your-waste](https://cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/reduce-and-reuse-your-waste)

### **Finding EV charging points**

[zap-map.com/locations/cirencester-charging-points](https://zap-map.com/locations/cirencester-charging-points)

### **Accessible public EV charging**

Free guidance for public EV charging to be accessible to disabled people and everyone.  
[accessibleevcharging.designability.org.uk](https://accessibleevcharging.designability.org.uk)

### **Charity recycling collection**

Information on Stamps, ink cartridges, mobile phones, cars and more.

[rspca-southcotswolds.org.uk/fundraising/collect-recycle.aspx](https://rspca-southcotswolds.org.uk/fundraising/collect-recycle.aspx)

### **Do you have resources to add to this section?**

If so, please share them with Claire at the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce.



# Events

**Cirencester Chamber of Commerce  
Future Proof Your Business**

Monthly Lunch and Learn  
Guest speakers and real case studies.

[cirencesterchamber.org.uk/events](http://cirencesterchamber.org.uk/events)

and

[eventbrite.co.uk/o/cirencester-chamber-of-commerce-13128400987](https://eventbrite.co.uk/o/cirencester-chamber-of-commerce-13128400987)

Last Tuesday of the month.  
12.30 – 1.30pm  
Online.

**Tuesday 28 February**  
**Tuesday 28 March**  
**Tuesday 25 April**  
**Tuesday 30 May**  
**Tuesday 27 June**

**Growth Hub**

Wednesday 8 March, 9.30am – 1.30pm  
Beginners Guide To Net Zero  
[thegrowthhub.biz/events](http://thegrowthhub.biz/events)

**Gloucestershire Business Show**

21 – 22 March  
Cheltenham Town Hall  
Including Climate & Environment, Social Value,  
and more.  
[business-shows.co.uk](http://business-shows.co.uk)

**Future Leap**

Various events, networking and co-working in  
Bristol  
[futureleap.co.uk/events](http://futureleap.co.uk/events)

**Sustainability Events Calendar**

Various national events  
[sustainabilityevents.co.uk](http://sustainabilityevents.co.uk)

**Do you have events to add to this page?**

If so, please share them with Claire at the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce.

# Case Studies

We will be adding case studies to this section on local businesses in the coming weeks, so please revisit.

# Contact

If you have information to add to this Future Proof Your Business Pack, or you would like your business to be featured in the case studies, please contact:

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