

AFTER COP 21: IS YOUR BUSINESS 'CLIMATE CHANGE READY'? 10 PRACTICAL TIPS FOR SMES

Checking you're in good shape

1 Recycle your way to savings

Recycling more can reduce waste management costs by up to 25%

Consult the 'Right Waste, Right Place' 2016 campaign, or the WRAP Green Office Guide for practical tips.

[More about WRAP](#)



2 Reduce your energy bill in a few simple steps

An average SME could reduce its energy bill by 18-25% through energy efficiency measures

Consider a simple energy audit, a switch to another energy provider, or implement renewable generation measures (solar power).

[More about SME Energy Efficiency](#)



3 Ensure your travel policy is green and lean



Public or shared transport is generally safer, cheaper and more efficient

Think about car sharing or cycle to work. Consider more flexibility around home working and video conferencing.

[More about cycle-to-work schemes](#)

4 Avoid damaging disruption in your supply chain



Climate change could threaten your ability to sustainably source products/services

Work closely with your suppliers to ensure they are protecting the environment and your interests at the same time.

[More about adapting for climate change](#)

5 Don't get caught out by extreme weather

Extreme weather events are no longer a hundred years apart and are country wide

Develop a simple flood risk assessment, check the exposure of your IT, its back up and your insurance for water damage.

[More about being at risk of flooding](#) [More about reducing the impact of flooding](#)



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Making the most of market changes

6 Engage your staff through action

Employees value and want to join companies that embrace concrete action plans on climate change

Design climate change initiatives such as working with a charity, communicate on the topic internally and promote employees' personal engagement.

[More on the Charity Commission](#)



7 Impress your clients by helping with their carbon footprint and with their climate change resilience



Large clients are looking to their suppliers for help to deliver carbon reductions, meaning they may disqualify those that don't

Consider what services and verification tools you could implement to reassure your clients on your credentials.

[More on the IEMA business case](#)

8 "Free" money anyone?



There are many ways to save on tax, increase cash flow in year 1, or get investment incentives

Put your CEO, CFO or MD on the case of National Insurance breaks, Enhanced Capital Allowances and Government Grants.

[More on government incentives](#)

9 Stand out from the crowd

Provide new, differentiating, climate change compliant services, or even adapt your business model

Follow E-Car clubs example and consider how you can capitalise on the awareness of climate change and develop services that make you stand out from competitors.

[More on E-Car Club](#)



10 Shout it from the roof-tops!

Many stakeholders (in addition to customers, suppliers, employees) have an interest in or a requirement to check on your credentials

Develop a sustainability reporting system with clear KPIs.

[More on the Global Reporting Initiative](#)

