

Midlothian – A Great, Green Place to Grow

Midlothian Council wants to support and encourage businesses to play a part in operating in an environmentally friendly way. With this in mind we have developed the Carbon Charter for Midlothian Businesses. We want to help you become more energy and carbon efficient and realise financial savings. We also want to recognise and celebrate green business achievements.

The Business Benefits to Being Green - Economic and Business Recovery

In these challenging times cost cutting can preserve your bottom-line profit if your top-line sales are struggling. The smaller your net profit margin, the greater the impact your cost reduction becomes, which makes cutting costs on energy and resources a crucial aspect of making your business competitive whilst benefitting the environment.

For a company with a 5% profit margin over 3 years, a £500-a-year saving from energy efficiency makes the same profit as £30,000 of extra sales.¹

Midlothian Council is here to help your business on this environmentally friendly journey. See the following links to contact a business consultant; whether you are an existing Midlothian business or you want to explore the many benefits of locating your business in Midlothian.

- [Midlothian Council – Support for Business](#)
- [Business Gateway Midlothian](#)
- [Locate in Midlothian](#)

Midlothian Council's Climate Change Declaration

Midlothian Council has pledged to work towards reducing the factors contributing to climate change. [The Council aims to achieve Net Zero² carbon and greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.](#) Net-zero refers to balancing the amount of emitted greenhouse gases with the equivalent emissions either offset or captured. The science of climate change recognises human activities as the main cause.

Climate Change Emergency is also reflected in the [Midlothian Strategy for Growth – 2020 – 2025](#) as a critical area for economic growth.³



¹ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2015), SME Guide to Energy Efficiency, £30,000 x 5% = £1,500 over 3 years = £500 a year
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sme-guide-to-energy-efficiency>

² <https://www.edie.net/definition/Net-zero-carbon/232>

³ <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/climate-change/facts-about-climate-emergency>

Midlothian Climate Change Strategy

Midlothian Council aims to lead by example and has developed a Climate Change strategy. This strategy outlines the challenges and provides an action plan to achieve targets and contribute to a net zero position.

Vision

To become an earth friendly Council, resource aware and committed to work in partnership with others to achieve Scotland's net zero carbon ambition by 2045 and ensure that our actions today assist future generations to create a resilient and more sustainable future in Midlothian.

To support Scotland's ambition to combat climate change and establish the transformational organisational and individual changes that are necessary to make the transition to a low carbon economy and ensure that Midlothian remains a "great, green place to grow" for future generations.

To transform the way we think about and manage resources to achieve a zero carbon future for the generations to follow and provide them with a sustainable future in Midlothian.

Objectives

- To make a commitment to stop contributing to climate change;
- To raise awareness about the impacts and risks from a changing climate;
- To take a 'One Council' approach to reducing carbon emissions and putting this objective at the heart of our organisational activities, processes and decisions;
- To encourage people, businesses and communities to make a climate change commitment;
- To lead by example and provide climate change leadership to our partners, communities and businesses;
- To develop our resilience and ability to adapt to the impacts and risks of a changing climate;
- To monitor and publicly report our climate change progress.



How you can help us, and we can help you

Midlothian businesses can play a significant role in reducing damaging carbon and greenhouse gas emissions. What's more, it makes good business sense: reducing overhead costs, maintaining competitiveness, and aligning with and spreading the climate change message while boosting environmental credentials. 'Climate Change Aware' consumers also have significant buying power.

The following are key activities which will help your business to cut energy use, and costs.

Conduct an Energy Audit

Business can carry out an energy audit to identify where energy is wasted, and where more efficient solutions can be provided

Assess your current energy use; conduct a walk around; develop an action plan; and present your business case

Zero Waste Scotland has produced a [useful guide and checklist](#) to follow here:

Conduct a Water Audit

- Wasted water is also wasted energy, and that equates to higher costs for your business
- Benchmark your water usage against other businesses; track down leaks

The Business Stream website provides some tips for [reducing water usage, and improving water efficiency](#)

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- How much waste does your business produce? Can this be reduced? Can your business reuse rather than throwaway?

Create a Travel Plan for Your Business

The Energy Savings Trust promotes the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy, encourage your team to follow this:

- If you don't need to travel, don't – is video or teleconferencing an option?
- Be active – walk, or cycle if you can;
- Use public transport;
- Use pool, club, or hire cars;
- Only use your own vehicle if no other option is available;
- Air travel is the most polluting of all forms of travel.

You can read more about energy efficient travel on the [Energy Savings Trust website](#)

Further tips and links on travel plans are available from the [Netregs website](#).

Recycling

Midlothian Council operates [recycling centres and services in Midlothian](#).



There are a number of business support agencies who can help you develop plans to reduce emissions and become a greener business. Below are a few agencies who can help you achieve your environmental goals:

Bright Green Business

[Bright Green Business](#) is one of the three trading organisations of The Business Partnership Ltd, alongside Midlothian and East Lothian Chamber of Commerce, and Bright Green Hydrogen.

Bright Green Business helps businesses in Midlothian save money through energy efficiency improvements and enhancing their environmental credentials by implementing environmental management systems, or encouraging student placements as an excellent additional resource.

Bright Green Business's objective is to unlock potential in business, education, and the environment, helping businesses to streamline operations, increase efficiency, boost their competitiveness and encourage positive environmental behaviour and management across Scotland.

Bright Green Business's four key services include:

1. Environmental services including EMS support and consultancy
2. The Bright Green Business Network
3. Student and graduate placement programmes
4. Educational services

They offer a range of unique services to help improve sustainable practices in businesses throughout Scotland including EMS and the renowned Environmental Placement Programme to help drive your company forward.



Zero Waste Scotland

Scottish SMEs can access energy efficiency support in the form of a free and impartial energy audit and support in accessing funding for measures recommended through [Zero Waste Scotland's Energy Efficiency Business Support Service](#).



Zero Waste Scotland have developed a Virtual Energy Assessment. [The infographic](#) explains how this works.

Resource Efficient Pledge

There are many ways that businesses can improve their environmental performance. Sign [the Resource Efficiency Pledge](#) to use energy, water, and raw materials more efficiently.

SME Interest Free Loan

There is further guidance, access to training, and an SME Loan available via [Zero Waste Scotland](#) to help you achieve your efficiency goals.



There are also a number of useful resources and tools available from the following agencies to help your business be as green and efficient as possible.

Organisation	Area of Activity
Bright Green Business	Offers a unique range of services to help improve sustainable practices in businesses across Scotland.
Carbon Literacy Project	The Carbon Literacy Project is a charitable organisation that helps to facilitate the design and delivery of Carbon Literacy courses in places of work, education, and the community.
Carbon Trust	The Carbon Trust looks at current and future sustainability challenges and works with business and organisations to develop sustainable strategies to deliver savings.
edie	A website and free business newsletter that empowers businesses to make sustainability and energy an integral part of their business strategies.
Energy Savings Trust	The Energy Savings Trust supports businesses and organisations and encourages them in energy saving behaviour, home renewable energy, transport and local energy programmes.
Greenhouse Gas Protocol	Greenhouse Gas Protocol provides standards, guidance, tools and training for business and government to measure and manage climate-warming emissions.
Midlothian Council – Active Travel Strategy	The purpose of this strategy is to provide a framework of objectives for investment, to identify the improvements required to deliver a comprehensive and well-connected network and to guide future active travel infrastructure and promotional initiatives.
Midlothian Council – Waste Aware Team	Our Waste Aware Officer is available to provide a wide range of advice, guidance and support on waste, waste minimisation and recycling.
Netregs	Netregs provides free environmental guidance for small and medium-sized businesses throughout Northern Ireland and Scotland.
United Nations – ActNow Challenge	ActNow is the United Nations' global call to individual action on climate change. The campaign is a critical part of the UN's coordinated effort to raise awareness, ambition, and action for climate change and accelerate implementation of the Paris Agreement.
VIBES - Scottish Environment Business Awards	The VIBES - Scottish Environment Business Awards aim to encourage the efficient use of resources, enhance the competitiveness of businesses, improve environmental performance and support the wider goals of sustainable development including social benefits through community and staff involvement.
Zero Waste Scotland	A government funded agency with a strong focus on waste/circular economy that has a lot of resources and tools for organisations and businesses.

-  Local
-  National
-  International