Futureproofing your business for net zero
Green Tech South West
Aisha Stewart
AISHA STEWART

• Net Zero Business Advisor at Business West
• Role at Business West:
  • Delivering workshops to businesses starting their carbon reduction journey
  • 1-to-1 support providing tailored advice and guidance
• Director for Bristol Energy Network
Our purpose is to create the **best businesses** and the **best place**.

Aiming to be net zero by 2030.

Became a B Corp in 2021

Our approach is to:

- lead by example
- mainstream Net Zero
- act as an enabler and a catalyst for the region
Barriers to taking action on climate change

- Climate change not a business priority
- Competing priorities
- Lack of available cash/finance
- Uncertain policies and regulations
- Lack of control
- Lack of capacity (human resource)
- Lack of knowledge/information
- Overwhelmed by subject
We are a small business so taking time to look into this is difficult.

We are time poor but determined.

Too many other competing issues with pressures on business activity, to worry about climate change currently!

We are willing and wanting to do this, but priorities are on survival in the economic current climate.

We are taking 'baby steps' right now but need to put this as a priority

Although we own the building, we do not have large financial resources to invest and longer term may be wanting to rent out the building, so this would need to be considered in terms of benefits and contracts.

I have lived abroad for decades in 30-40C climate and it's no problem, rather nice :)

'Climate change' in the sense of 'global warming' is nonsense, and a massive con. Please stop peddling the myth.
What are the business benefits of acting now?

• Opportunities for efficiencies and financial savings

• Strengthen your reputation

• Meet growing customer expectations
What are the business benefits of acting now?

• Support other business initiatives
• Meet expanding procurement requirements
• Employees seeking proactive employers
Net zero is reducing carbon emitted by your business as far as possible and then removing the equivalent amount of carbon remaining from the atmosphere.
Greenhouse Gas Protocol

Data source: GHG Protocol
Greenhouse Gases

Scope 1
DIRECT

CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, HFCs, PFCs, SF₆

Scope 2
INDIRECT

Upstream activities
Reporting company
Downstream activities
Scopes 1, 2 and 3
Heat pumps

Insulation and draught proofing

Electric vehicles
Re-use of materials

Low carbon freight

Consider your car park
Where are businesses taking action?

- NHS has set two targets:
  1. Reach net zero by **2040** for their ‘NHS Carbon Footprint’
  2. Reach net zero by **2045** for their ‘NHS Carbon Footprint Plus’

- By 2030, the NHS will no longer purchase from suppliers that do not meet or exceed our commitment to net zero

- Actions being taken:
  - More efficient use of supplies
  - Low-carbon substitutions and product innovation
  - Ensuring our suppliers are decarbonising their own processes.
Where are businesses taking action?

- Close to 60% of the full value chain greenhouse emissions come from the energy required to power its products.
- By 2025, 80% of their manufacturing spend will go to suppliers with science-based targets.
Where are businesses taking action?

Tiny data centre used to heat public swimming pool

- Leisure centre swimming pool heated by on-site data centre or “digital boiler”
- A subsequent 62% drop in the amount of gas needed to heat the pool, cutting its bills by £20k a year
Thank you!

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#TradingToNetZero