



## Overview of key environmental issues

Hospitality and leisure sector businesses impact on the environment in a variety of ways – either indirectly through the upstream activities of suppliers or directly through activities on your business premises. The most important sources of environmental impact in your sector are: utility and resource use (e.g. lighting, heating and cooling and water); waste disposal (e.g. food waste, packaging); direct emissions (e.g. refrigerant leaks); and water pollution (e.g. run off from car parks etc).

Listed below are links to information on the most relevant pieces of environmental legislation affecting your sector and essential 'Green Savings' to creating a greener, more profitable, hospitality & leisure business. A full report is available at <http://www.SurreyGreenSteps.com>

---

## Legislation

### Climate change agreements

The Climate Change Levy (CCL) is a tax on the use of energy in industry, commerce and the public sector. The Government permits an 80 percent discount from the CCL if certain targets for improving energy efficiency and carbon emissions<sup>2</sup> are met as part of a formal Climate Change Agreement with industry sectors or businesses. More information is available at: [www.decc.gov.uk](http://www.decc.gov.uk)

### CRC energy efficiency scheme

The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC) is a mandatory carbon trading scheme for businesses who consume above a set threshold of energy. Participant's performance will be published in a league table. More information is available at: <http://www.decc.gov.uk>

### Air conditioning

Air conditioning systems over a certain size must be inspected regularly by an accredited assessor. These inspections are designed to improve efficiency and reduce energy consumption, operating costs and carbon emissions for your system. For further information there is an explanatory guide which can be downloaded from the DCLG website (<http://www.communities.gov.uk>).

### Surface water or ground water pollution

Many substances entering surface waters or ground waters could cause pollution. Most substances that businesses use and dispose of are unsuitable for discharge to surface waters or ground waters without being treated first. More information is available at: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>

### Food hygiene standards

There are several regulations that apply to all businesses in the food supply chain including caterers, primary producers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers. The regulations set out basic hygiene principles, focusing on how to identify and control food safety risks at each stage of the process of preparing and selling food. More information is available at: [www.food.gov.uk](http://www.food.gov.uk).

# Green Savings

## Calculate your carbon footprint

You can only make informed decisions about where to target carbon reduction policies when you have a complete view of your organisation's emissions. Plenty of business-friendly, free, advice is available on creating a simple corporate carbon footprint – highly recommended is Defra's GHG Reporting Guidelines (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/>). This document explains in clear terms how you go about creating a footprint – as well as how to report the result and set emissions targets. To help you calculate your business carbon footprint to the Defra standard we you can use the free Footprinter tool: <http://www.footprinter.com/>

## Implement an Environmental Management System

An environmental management system (EMS) supports your company's commitment to improving all aspects of its environmental impact. By adopting an Environmental Management System you will be in a position to reduce raw material, waste and energy costs, gain environmental credibility and be compliant with legislation. To encourage SMEs to adopt an Environmental Management System, Surrey County Council has licensed an e-learning package for use by Surrey SMEs. This can be accessed via the following link: INSERT HERE

## Report your environmental performance

There are a number of reasons why businesses report on their environmental performance to a broad audience including: shareholders, customers, regulators, environmental pressure groups, local communities, employees and suppliers. Some benefits of environmental reporting include: supporting product innovation and drive continual improvement; improving investor relations; improve competitiveness. An excellent place to start is Defra's guidance on environmental measurement and reporting (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/>) – this guidance focuses on reporting greenhouse gas emissions, but addresses other areas too.

## Buy green

'Green procurement' is a process through which a business considers the environmental impact of the goods and services it buys – alongside financial value. Green procurement is a very effective method for highlighting environmental issues within an organisation – and also driving environmental improvement in the supply chain. By purchasing prudently, organisations can reduce waste and pollution, save materials, energy and money, and encourage sustainable patterns of behaviour. The unsustainable purchase of products (e.g. timber, travel) also has a high reputational risk and can be seen by stakeholders as unacceptable. Some green procurement 'quick wins' can be explored at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk>.

## Become energy efficient

It doesn't capture the imagination like some environmental initiatives but energy efficiency measures can yield big savings on your fuel and electricity bills – even the simple ones. An important first step to becoming a more energy efficient business is to ensure someone in your organisation takes responsibility for monitoring energy use and pushing forward energy projects. This will require discussion with staff from across your business as their behaviour and day-to-day decisions will directly affect the energy demands of your business. Visit the Energy Savings Trust (<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk>) and Carbon Trust (<http://www.carbontrust.co.uk>) for more information on energy efficiency in business.

## Reduce water use

Water resources are coming under increasing pressure by the dual effects of climate change and population growth. This affects businesses in direct and measurable ways – such as the Increasing cost of water supply as a result of increasing pressure on water resources. The water footprint of a business is the total volume of freshwater used directly or indirectly to run and support that business. By calculating and analysing your water footprint you can: Identify water related impacts of your operations on the environment; calculate your businesses' water consumption and water efficiency; and identify the risks in your supply chain and formulate an action plan. More information on water efficiency can be found through Envirowise 'Ripple effect' initiative.