



Overview of key environmental issues

Manufacturing companies in Surrey produce a broad range of products and as a result have the potential to impact upon the environment in a range of ways. The key environmental issues affecting your sector are: emissions (e.g. process gases); contaminated land (e.g. accidental spills of chemicals); equipment and plant machinery energy consumption; resource use (e.g. raw materials, packaging); waste disposal (e.g. waste products, packaging); and water pollution (e.g. equipment cleaning, effluent).

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, manufacturing 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 emissions³ are met as part of a formal Climate Change Agreement with industry sectors or businesses. More information is available at: www.decc.gov.uk

Ozone depleting substances

Ozone Depleting Substances are chemicals that damage the ozone layer if allowed to escape and Fluorinated gases (F-gases) are a potent greenhouse gas. Both have restrictions on their production, transport, sale and disposal. More information is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk>

Packaging waste regulations

There are two pieces of legislation that affect business that handle significant amounts of packaging waste or that put packaging or packaged goods on the market. These laws are designed to minimise the amount of waste packaging generated at source and ensure that packaging can be reused, recovered or recycled. More information is available at: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>

Registration, evaluation, authorisation & restriction of chemicals

If you manufacture, import, distribute, sell or use chemical substances you must comply with the REACH Regulations. REACH aims to provide a high level of protection of human health and the environment from the use of chemicals. More information is available at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk>

Fuel storage

If you store any kind of oil on your premises above ground, outside in containers with a capacity of more than 200 litres then you may need to comply with the Oil Storage Regulations. More information is available at: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>

Restriction of hazardous substances directive

The RoHS Directive restricts the use of certain hazardous substances during the manufacture of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE). More information is available at: <http://www.rohs.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>

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](#)

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.

Footprint your product

A product footprint is a measure of the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions attributable to the production, use and disposal of a product. Undertaking a product footprint creates business value through: identifying GHG reduction and efficiency opportunities; enabling performance tracking; providing a means to differentiate your product from others and improving supplier dialogue.

Product footprints can require a significant amount of time and resources so you should carefully plan your investment to get maximum benefit – one option is to undertake a low risk 'scoping study' first to assess the best approach. The technical nature of these analyses means that most businesses will not have the internal capacity to undertake a full study, and so will need external help (e.g. experts such as Best Foot Forward). Help is also available from the Carbon Trust – a government-funded body promoting product footprinting.

3. Note that the 2009 Pre-Budget Report announced that, from 1 April 2011, the discount from the CCL will be reduced from 80% to 65%.