



Overview of key environmental issues

Transport and logistics companies impact on the environment in the following main areas: transport fuel consumption; mobile refrigerant gas leaks; energy use at depots and distribution centres; waste disposal of packaging, vehicles and vehicle parts; and water use and pollution (e.g. vehicle cleaning). By improving the environmental performance of your fleet you have the potential to lower the 'life cycle impact' of your customers' products – transport can be a significant source of emissions for some goods.

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, transport business. A full report is available at <http://www.SurreyGreenSteps.com>

Legislation

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>

Waste storage and transport

You are responsible for storing and transporting your waste safely and legally and must ensure that your waste does not harm the environment. More information is available at: <http://www.netregs.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>

End-of-life vehicles

Producers of vehicles are required to set up collection, treatment and disposal systems, register responsibility for vehicles placed on the market and apply for approval of their vehicle collection system. There are also reuse, recovery and recycling targets for end-of-life vehicles. More information is available at: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>

Vehicle emissions

You must ensure that all your motor vehicles comply with emission limits and weight regulations. More information is available at: <http://www.businesslink.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>

Landfill regulations

Certain wastes, such as tyres and some chemicals, must not be sent to landfill. More information is available at: <http://www.netregs.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](#)

Travel more sustainably

Transport is often a major source of emissions for businesses – whether it's in the form of business travel, freight or staff commuting to work. If you provide or procure logistics services these are likely to be a major source of emissions. Significant amounts of research have been commissioned in this area and the results are freely available through the Department for Transport Freight Best Practice scheme. Commuting is consistently found to be a very significant source of business emissions. Although not under the direct control of an employer, steps can be taken to encourage staff to shift from low-occupancy car travel to more sustainable modes.

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.

Think green

It cannot be emphasised enough that environmental policies will struggle to succeed if there is a lack of staff support across your business. There are a number of techniques that businesses of all sizes employ to get everyone thinking green. These include: get commitment to change from the highest level of management; understand the most important environmental impacts your business has; integrate green issues into all parts of your business strategy. One of the most important things to do is to engage staff with humour and emphasise that environmental issues are a strategic business risk as well as an ethical issue. Anthropogenic climate change, as described in the Stern Report⁵ as "the greatest threat to mankind", is no laughing matter. However, conveying the message to a cynical and busy workforce with humour can be far more effective. For more information on managing behaviour change visit <http://www.envirowise.gov.uk>