

# CLIMATE CHANGE

Helping Scotland achieve its target to be Net Zero by 2045

Climate change and nature loss are the biggest threats to the planet, this sounds daunting but there is a solution – Net Zero. Scotland has set an ambitious target to be Net Zero by 2045, this is a journey that will require transformation across all sectors in Scotland.

## WHAT IS NET ZERO?

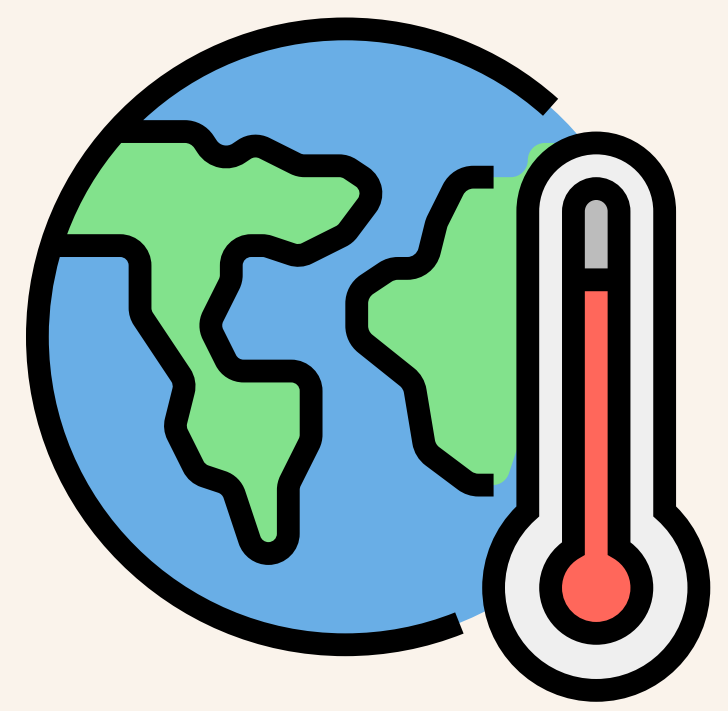
Net Zero means any emissions created are offset by schemes to the equivalent amount of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere.

## WHY DOES IT MATTER TO YOUR BUSINESS?

**Your customers care!** Climate change matters to customers, in a recent survey by *revolt Top 50 where do they care?* Environmentally aware consumers are consciously buying greener locally sourced products. Consumers believe businesses have a key role to play in reaching Net Zero targets, with **73%** of millennials surveyed stating government aren't able to achieve climate challenges alone.

**It is law!** In April 2021 The UK Government announced the sixth Carbon Budget, the carbon reduction target of **78%** by 2035 from 1990s levels is now law. Legislation for larger businesses will put pressure on smaller business to be greener and more sustainable.





## WHAT CAN YOUR BUSINESS DO?

All positive climate action matters, whether this is incremental changes, an overhaul of your business strategy or pivoting into new opportunities. Below are some key points for businesses to help achieve the global Net Zero targets.

## MAKE A COMMITMENT TO CHANGE

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard (GHG Protocol) is a universal standard of frameworks used to measure and manage greenhouse gas emissions from industry. They have outlined 3 Scopes of greenhouse gas emissions that your business is responsible for:

- Scope 1 are emissions from direct and controlled sources for example your business premises
- Scope 2 emissions from indirect sources for example your energy supplier
- Scope 3 all other indirect emissions from your supply chain

## IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

**Planning;** so many companies will commit without knowing how they will achieve targets that fall into the above scopes. It is important to baseline your current emissions and have a plan of action. The carbon trust have an online tool to measure your businesses Carbon Footprint.

[www.carbontrust.com/resources/sme-carbon-footprint-calculator](http://www.carbontrust.com/resources/sme-carbon-footprint-calculator)



# SOURCES OF SUPPORT FOR YOUR BUSINESS

**Business Gateway** - Talk to us about Net Zero we can help you no matter what stage of the net zero journey you are on.

 [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com)

 [www.investinwestlothian.com](http://www.investinwestlothian.com)

**Zero Waste Scotland** - Online CPD course for Green Champions.

 [www.greenchampions.zerowastescotland.org.uk](http://www.greenchampions.zerowastescotland.org.uk)

**Net Zero Scotland** - is the Scottish Governments campaign to tackle the global climate emergency. They have a dedicated section for businesses on their website with guides to help your business achieve net zero emissions.

 [www.netzeronation.scot](http://www.netzeronation.scot)



## COMMON THEMES WITHIN A CARBON REDUCTION PLAN

- Carbon footprint measurement
- Reducing and reusing resources. Recycling is great but it has the 2nd largest carbon footprint behind landfill, it is better to refurbish materials where possible
- Reducing energy in your buildings including external storage solutions
- Raising staff awareness of the climate crisis, take advantage of up-skilling or training opportunities
- Switching to green energy sources, reducing staff travel and food waste
- A commitment to update employees and customers on targets and milestones