Tips for creating a meaningful environmental policy

SAVE MOTHER EARTH

What is an environmental policy and why should you have one?

An environmental policy is a written statement that outlines your businesses commitment to **net zero** and tackling the climate emergency. Having an environmental policy can influence the decision-making process in your business, help you meet **legal requirements, reduce costs** and **attract new business.** Below are some steps to consider when writing your policy:

Make sure the policy is **unique** to your business and reflects your company ethos. Businesses are at varying stages of their journey to **net zero** and will have different areas they need to prioritise – make sure you embrace and reflect this in your policy.

Consult staff, partners and stakeholders. It is vital **everyone** understands the importance and risk that climate change and nature loss pose so they can understand their role they have to play in tackling it; in both their **personal** and **professional** lives. To make a policy viable you need buy in, if you employ staff involve them in the **creation process** and build in **accountability.**

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Make sure it addresses your businesses environmental impacts. If you have an understanding of your **baseline emissions** and scope then make sure the policy outlines how you can make positive action on these. If you need more help with understanding **your carbon footprint** then get in touch with Business Gateway - **Bgateway@westlothian.gov.uk** Climate change is a complex global issue and can seem overwhelming, it is important that your policy reflects commitments that you can control. For example, look at your **immediate suppliers** environmental credentials and contact zero waste Scotland for free sustainability business support.

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Remember the 5 key questions to ask yourself:

- **Why** are you writing this policy?

- **What** do you want to achieve?

- **How** are you going to achieve them?

- **Who** do you need to consult?

- **When** are you going to reassess the policy and report on outcomes?

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Sources of support for your business

Net Zero Scotland & Zero Waste Scotland - 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 and for companies to move towards having zero waste.

www.zerowastescotland.org.uk

www.netzeronation.scot

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.investinwestlothian.com

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