Sustainability in SME: the business case and practical guidance

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Agenda

1. Series of publications devoted to sustainability
2. Business case for sustainability - why act now
3. SMPs taking the lead - what you can do
4. Resources to support SMPs
A series of publications devoted to sustainability in SME
Only 10% of finance professionals in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and 8% of small and medium-sized practitioners (SMPs) have significant involvement in tackling climate change as part of their role.
What you can find in the playbook

An introduction to sustainability
The role of SMEs
Sustainability: the business case
Accountants: take the lead
A guide to action
Business transformation
Ensuring integrity
The business case - why act now?

- Supply chain
- “Purchase order”
- Cost savings
- Value creation
- Talent
- Investment
- Resilience and innovation
Accountants taking lead and adding value

- Advising and connecting
- Determining impact
- Reporting and assurance
- Embedding sustainability
- Ensuring integrity
The evolving journey for SMPs

1. Raise awareness
2. Analyse business models
3. Advise on transformation
4. Report on non-financial indicators
5. Assurance of non-financial indicators
A guide to action

- Types of emissions explained
- Make a net zero commitment
- Measuring carbon footprint incl tools and calculators
- Top-tips reducing carbon emissions
- Access to green finance

- Creating an inclusive workplace – toolkits, resources
- Empowering and mentoring employees
- Tips on analyzing supply chain
Towards net-zero emissions - make a commitment

MAKE A COMMITMENT

The SME climate hub in the UK has an extensive range of tools for SMEs to reduce emissions and raise their ambition for sustainability. SMEs can make a climate pledge by Signing the SME Climate Commitment.

The Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) provides a credible pathway for businesses, including a pathway for SMEs, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with a view to meeting the Paris Agreement goals.

Climate Active is an Australian government initiative to drive voluntary climate action by businesses. It provides a framework for organisations of all sizes to measure, reduce and offset emissions.
Analysing supply chains

Understand where their products originate from.

Know how they are made and by whom.

Find out what raw materials are used in their manufacture.

Ensure labour conditions meet international standards.

Think not only product but also service providers!
Business transformation for SMEs - how to best approach that

- Setting up goals
- Integrating the goals
- Getting your team/clients on board
- Governance and partnerships
- Being part of circular economy

- Defining priorities checklist
- How to talk about climate change checklist
- UN Global compact toolkit how to tackle SDGs
- 4D sustainability canvas toolkit
Our global call to action

- improve your sustainability skills and understanding
- gather resources, start a conversation and connect more widely
- consider sustainability in every decision you make
- measure performance outside of the financial statement and encourage your clients to do so
- engage with other professionals, and
- share your insights and experience widely and often.
Sustainability resources and initiatives to support you:

1. How SMEs can create a sustainable world- SME Sustainability Playbook with external links to free resources for SMEs
2. Practice Connect hub for SMPs - Growing sustainably section
3. ACCA Rethinking sustainable business hub
4. The Practice Room – knowledge sharing sessions for SMPs, summaries of previous sustainability focused sessions are available
Thank you