

## **BCC Climate Change Charter**

<http://www.theclimatechangecharter.co.uk>

### **The BCC and the Business Community will commit to:**

- Placing Climate Change at the heart of business decision making
  - Adopting practices to reduce carbon emissions
  - Spreading the messages of energy efficiency to promote best practice
  - Taking a lead role in enacting practical behavioural change
  - Work in partnership with government and other stakeholders
  - Through training and continued communication encourage all employees to be aware of the company's social and environmental responsibility and give them a clear understanding of why we are committing to this and what we hope to achieve
- However the business community cannot solve the effects of global warming on its own. The challenge to mitigate the effects of climate change must be a collaborative partnership between the business community and Government.

### **To this end we call on the Government to:**

- Provide a clear and certain regulatory environment that allows business to plan, invest and operate successfully
  - Ensure that green regulation and taxation is genuinely focused on achieving defined environmental goals
  - Provide a clear and open assessment of the implications of green regulation on business, and SMEs in particular
  - Provide support and assistance to the SME community so that it can assess and reduce its environmental impact
  - Support an incentive led approach to behavioural change, rather than a punitive one
  - Employ innovative and market based strategies to meet emissions targets
  - Engage in active and regular dialogue with the business community so that the Government's target of a 60% reduction in emissions is delivered, and delivered in the manner that is least costly to British business
  - Support and encourage business opportunities in green technologies and eco-markets, establishing UK as a centre of excellence for green business
- Current Accredited Chambers signed up to the BCC Climate Change Charter

### **BCC Top Ten Tips**

1) Lower energy use – switch off lights, computers etc at night. Our 'standby culture' is responsible for one million tonnes of carbon being pumped into the atmosphere each year. Make the most from natural daylight by keeping windows clean and consider an energy efficient lighting system. Buying Energy Star rated equipment could reduce energy costs by almost 50%.

- 2) Greener communications – technology is providing a new way for businesses to communicate without damaging the environment through business travel. Implement web conferencing as a means of communication in your business and see travel expenses reduce dramatically while increasing productivity.
- 3) CarbonNeutral Travel – calculate how much road, rail and flight travel your business generates per year. You could then pay to neutralise this through renewable energy and sustainable forestry projects.
- 4) Introduce an environmental strategy – Set out specific, measurable goals that you will be able to achieve and update your staff regularly. Staff, clients and potential customers will appreciate your efforts to take environmental issues seriously.
- 5) Turn down the heat – increasing the temperature by 1 degree will see costs rise by 8%. Check that no unused rooms are heated and keep radiators clear of furniture. Heating and hot water can account for up to 60% of a buildings total energy costs.
- 6) Greening the supply chain. This will not only impact on your organisation's environmental contribution but will encourage other businesses to change policies and practice too. Look for products that are kinder to the environment and use suppliers who are implementing greener processes and are environmentally conscious.
- 7) Be water wise - Fit water-saving devices to toilet cisterns and water saving taps. Use your water meter to check for leaks from underground and internal pipes. Also check for leaking internal pipes and dripping taps. Investigate opportunities to recycle water and fit pressure regulators to minimise water consumption. A dripping tap loses about 2 drops a second which is around 90 litres a week.
- 8) Sign up for renewable energy – this is exempt from the Climate Change Levy and businesses that sign up to a green tariff can avoid paying it. Log on to [www.greenelectricity.org](http://www.greenelectricity.org) for a green tariff quote.
- 9) Recycle waste – waste products, whether the paper, plastic and glass in an office environment or the manufacturing waste from a plant can be recycled. Introduce an office strategy and get everyone's buy in. Rather than binning reams of unwanted paper from the printer, make sure it goes into the recycling bin.
- 10) Get informed - The Government's Energy Efficiency Best Practice Programme provides a range of best practice publications and organises seminars on all aspects of energy efficiency. Contact the Environment and Energy Helpline on 0800 585794 or visit [www.envirowise.gov.uk](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk)