

Helping businesses become more climate-friendly

The Climate-friendly Business participants joined 4 breakout sessions to discuss what would help businesses take the first steps towards reducing energy use and food waste. Here are the key points:

What type of support?

- Some participants were ready to work with Zero Waste Scotland. They suggested it would be good to know about other resources which might be helpful while waiting for support to start (See links in blog and slide presentations) to use while waiting on support.
- Access to Staff training for example Green Champion training (Zero Waste Scotland) and Climate KnowHow (Greener Kirkcaldy)
- Links to resources beyond food waste but connected to it: plastic and packaging; energy efficient equipment, induction cookers etc and lists of suppliers.
- A Sustainable Charter for local tourism and businesses (energy, food waste, and employment) to encourage businesses to but in and strive for good standards (Changeworks have experience of developing a sustainable charter).
- Liaise with Greener Kirkcaldy about some initial support to take the first steps.
- Examples of local sites that would be willing to accept visits

What do you think are the challenges to getting started?

- Leading by example to get everyone on board: buy-in from staff and the chain of influence. Moving the basics to the norm: switching off lights; turning down the heating; nad dealing with food and disposing of food waste.
- Overwhelming amount of information to get through: What are best resources to use – green wash or really green?
- How to start to reduce carbon footprint? How do we assess baseline carbon footprint or our organisation? Knowing the best tools?
- Getting information:
 - Funding: upgrading heating systems; switching to paper and plant firms of packaging.
 - Being more climate -friendly in all areas;
 - Influencing Boards that it makes economic sense too.
 - What food recycling is best- incineration/ composting...
- Finding the balance and dealing with heating controls in shared spaces – hot enough or cool enough?

Would some follow up events to this be useful and what types?

- Showcase and updates on resources: Tips; Hints Training
- Showcase of resources that people use already.
- Specific experiences from businesses and organisations (Networking for green businesses see [Energy Savings Trust](#) website)
- Regular newsletter to keep up to date with funding and upcoming events.
- Links to relevant resources on ZWS website
- Training and similar learning events
- Networking to share ideas, opportunities and experiences.