

Climate Toolkit 4 Business

Start your zero carbon journey

Accelerating the green and
digital transition for SMEs

Aisling McCarthy, Climate Programmes Unit,
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
January 2024



The Climate Toolkit 4 Business was developed with support from the Public Service Innovation Fund.
[Our Public Service - Funding](#)



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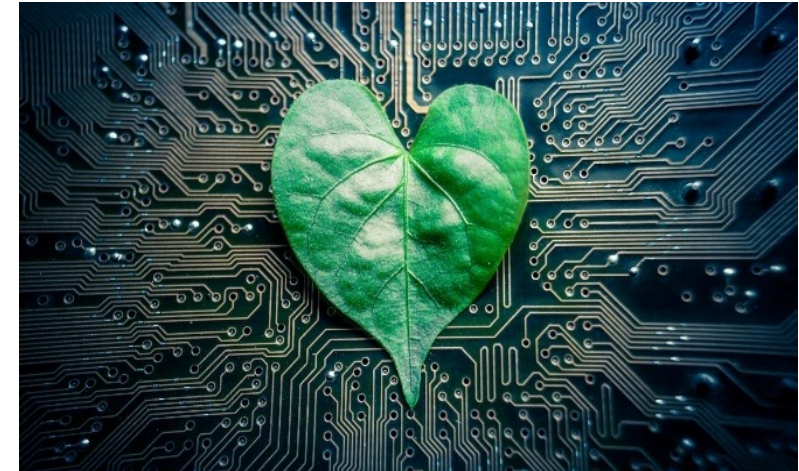


AccelerateGDT

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How it started



- Idea and objective
 - Aimed to provide SMEs a single point of information and support in a complex policy space.
 - Answer the question ‘Where do I start?’
 - Joint project by Departments of Environment, Climate and Communications and Enterprise, Trade and Employment
 - Other State and business-representative bodies to catalyse cooperation on enterprise and climate action policy.



What is the Climate Toolkit 4 Business?



- A carbon calculator tool and climate action plan generator aimed at Irish SMEs
- Provides SMEs with practical ways to take action to reduce emissions
- Signposts available supports from the State
- Increase resilience, remain competitive in low-carbon economy of future

Climate Toolkit 4 Business
Start your zero carbon journey

Climate Toolkit 4 Business

Start your zero carbon journey

Tackling our carbon emissions is good for our planet, our economy and your business. This Toolkit provides you with practical ways to start taking action.

- How the Toolkit works
- What you will need

GET STARTED

Start your journey now

1 Please provide some information on your business below

Sector

Select the sector that best describes your business from the drop-down menu below

Retail & Wholesale ▼

Size

How many people currently work for your business in Ireland?

100

Buildings

Does your company own the premises or property it uses? Yes No

Step 1 of 5

NEXT STEP

Business

Energy

Travel

Materials

Water

2 Energy

For most businesses, energy usage will be the biggest contributor to your direct carbon footprint. You are only required to complete the energy types applicable to your business.

Electricity

Please provide the annual volume or cost of your electricity use.

kWh per annum

 kWh

or

Cost per annum

Natural gas

If your business uses natural gas, please provide the annual volume or cost.

kWh per annum

 kWh

or

Cost per annum

Heating oil

If your business uses heating oil, please provide the annual volume or cost. This can include Gasoil, Kerosene or both.

Litres per annum

 l

or

Cost per annum

LPG

If your business uses LPG, please provide the relevant metrics below.

Litres per annum

 l

or

Cost per annum

Heavy fuel oil

If your business uses fuel oil ('heavy' or 'furnace' oil), please provide the annual volume or cost.

Litres per annum

 l

or

Cost per annum

Coal

If your business uses coal, please provide the annual volume or cost.

Tonnes per annum

 t

or

Cost per annum


2/5

3 Travel


For road vehicles, we assume small commercial vehicles are being used. This is a necessary simplification. Businesses using large amounts of freight should undertake a separate transport-related emissions analysis

Petrol


If your business uses petrol vehicles, please provide input below.

Business Mileage Per Annum  km


OR

Cost per annum **Diesel**



If your business uses diesel vehicles, please provide input below.

Business Mileage Per Annum  km

OR

Cost per annum **Business flights**

If employees take any business-related flights through the course of the year, please provide the required details below.

1. Number of short-haul return flights per annum 2. Number of long-haul return flights per annum 

3/5


 PREVIOUS STEPNEXT STEP 

5 Water usage

The volume of water used by your business contributes to your carbon footprint, through the energy used in its treatment and transport. Small changes in your operations can have a large impact. Conserving water not only helps to protect your local supply but can help you to reduce your environmental impacts while saving money on your water bills.


Water usage

Please enter your water usage per annum below.

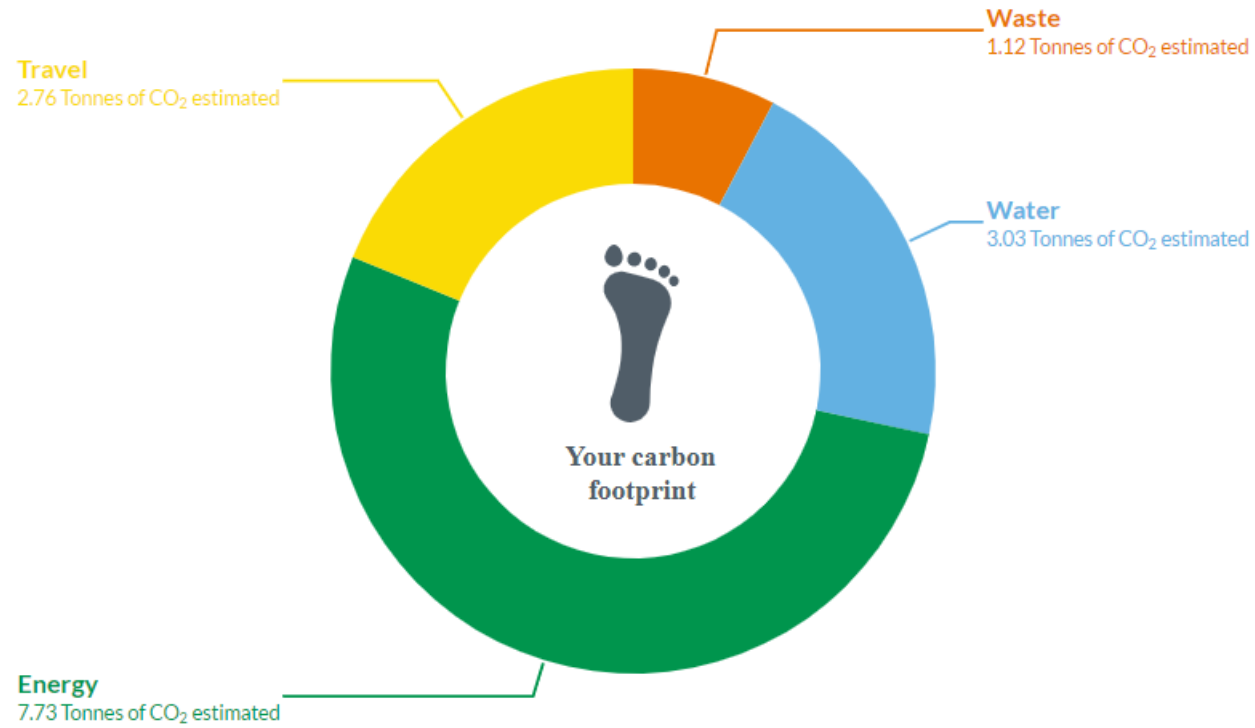
Volume, m³ per annum 

15500 m³

5/5

 PREVIOUS STEP

GENERATE YOUR ACTION REPORT



Your annual carbon footprint is estimated to be 14.65 tonnes CO₂


The actions provided cover the impact areas of energy, travel, materials and waste as well as some more strategic actions that address your business model. If you choose to share, download or save your report, you will be prompted to register so that you can return to update either your carbon footprint metrics, track the actions you have implemented or share your plan with colleagues.

[UPDATE MY METRICS](#)

[RESET CALCULATOR DATA](#)

Your Action Plan

Filter By: [All \(14\)](#) | [Get Started \(6\)](#) | [Embed \(5\)](#) | [Strategic \(3\)](#)



1. Appoint a key member of staff to be your sustainability champion.


Your sustainability champion will take ownership of this plan, share it with all staff and set an ambitious but achievable timeframe for putting these measures in place.


Establishing clear ownership of this plan is an important first step and will help raise awareness and give priority to the actions needed in order to decarbonise your business.

Consider allocating an appropriate budget for implementation of this plan.

[Read less](#)

Complete In progress Not applicable



Staff engagement



2. All appropriate staff should do an online energy training course to identify energy and cost savings for your business.



Completing an e-learning course on SEAI's Energy Academy will enable staff to reduce your business' energy consumption and save money on your energy bills.

Supports Available & Description

The SEAI Energy Academy is a free online training resource offering modules focussed on important areas of energy efficiency and management. 

[Read less](#)

Complete In progress Not applicable

 Energy  Staff engagement



3. Monitor and reduce your energy use, by increasing energy awareness and encouraging behavioural change amongst staff

Recording energy use gives you a baseline against which to measure all improvement actions taken. SEAI's Energy Management Guide for Small Business can be a useful guide to getting started with monitoring your energy use.

Use communications tools to promote awareness and support staff to be more energy efficient

Communications will include:

- Posters and/or other prominent messages in the workplace to let staff know about the energy saving and conservation measures
- Regular communication on the energy and emissions footprint of the organisation and the steps underway to address these
- Cues to remind staff to turn off lights and equipment at the end of the day/when not required.
- Appointing someone to turn off communal machines like printers, coffee machines, etc. at appropriate times
- Energy saving competitions between departments or teams
- Encouraging all staff to undertake online sustainability training (training recommendations provided in further actions)
- consider assigning sustainability objectives, goals and actions as part of your performance management process

Supports Available & Description

SEAI Introduction to Energy Management: Creating an Energy Action Plan Training assists businesses with writing an energy action plan, tracking their energy use, and developing an energy management strategy. →

SEAI's Energy Management Guide for Small Business is a useful guide to getting started with monitoring your energy use. →

The Skillnet Ireland Climate Ready Academy Sustainability Pass is a free online self-study modular programme designed to support all staff of all disciplines and skill levels to improve sustainability awareness and encourage best sustainability practices. →



4. Take 'early win' actions on efficiency and cost saving measures first.

The journey to zero emissions will be a demanding one and will likely require strategic investment over time. However, introducing some low-cost energy-saving measures identified through your training can help you make early progress, save your business money and set you on a path to lowering your carbon footprint.

Consider:

- Replacing all old fluorescent or incandescent lighting with high efficiency LED Lighting at end of life, install lighting controls, such as motion detectors, to reduce consumption.
- Ensuring thermostats are set to 19 – 22 degrees C and set timers to turn off on weekends and evenings.
- Installing draught-proofing anywhere that unwanted cold air comes in e.g. under doors, around window frames, through old unused extractor fans.
- Ensuring major energy using equipment such as boilers, compressors, dryers, refrigeration are regularly serviced and maintained to avoid excess consumption.

Review all potential opportunities in [SEAI SME Guide to Energy Efficiency](#)

Supports Available & Description

Replace old fluorescent or incandescent lighting with high efficiency LED Lighting at end of life, install lighting controls such as motion detectors to reduce consumption. →

The SBCI Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme (EELS) offers discounted term loans, asset finance and hire purchase to SMEs, farmers and fishers planning investments in energy-saving technology. Lending benefits from reduced interest rates, finance amounts range from €10k to €150k over terms of up to 10 years. →

[Read less](#)

Complete In progress Not applicable



Cost saving



Energy



High Impact



5. Seek external expertise to help make a plan for a zero-carbon business.

Having an external expert examine the energy use and wider operations of your business can help you to plan for further efficiencies and low carbon opportunities.

Supports Available & Description

Energy Audits for SMEs | Business | SEAI
SEAI's Support Scheme for Energy Audits offers financial support for a high-quality energy audit for SMEs that spend more than €10,000 annually on energy. →

Enterprise Ireland has a range of supports for client companies to reduce emissions and improve environmental performance. The Climate Action Voucher to develop an initial action plan, and GreenStart/Plus to develop internal capabilities. →

Strategic consultancy short programme
The Strategic Consultancy - short programme assists Enterprise Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta clients to develop and/or implement strategic initiatives and company plans in the areas of sustainability and decarbonisation. It allows up to 80% of the eligible costs incurred in hiring a consultant, with a maximum grant amount of €7,200. →

[Read less](#)

Complete In progress Not applicable



Cost saving



Energy



High Impact



Supports

Be Part of the **Zero** Carbon Transformation



13232

users viewed climate action report



3571

subscribers



123285

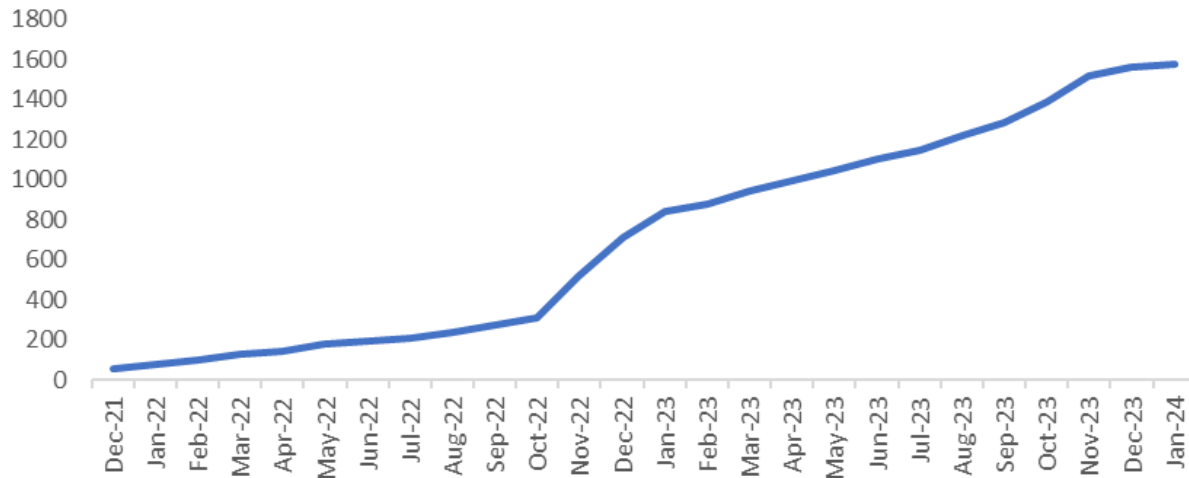
total views



1603

registered users

Cumulative Toolkit Registrations



Engagement with the Toolkit

<https://www.climatetoolkit4business.gov.ie>

Climate Toolkit 4 Business
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Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
81,968 followers
2w •


Start your #ZeroCarbon Journey Today

The Government's #ClimateToolkit4Business is an online tool to help SMEs get started on their sustainability journey.

The Toolkit provides a tailored set of actions that businesses can take to improve their environmental impact. It also directs them to the State agencies and grants available to assist them.

It includes a carbon calculator that estimates emissions associated with businesses' energy, water, travel, and waste.

Learn more and start your plan today https://lnkd.in/e_-D_785



THE ENERGY
your business uses contributes to its
CARBON FOOTPRINT

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Climate Toolkit 4 Business
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Ongoing work and next steps



- Irish Govt continues to recommend Toolkit as first port-of-call for businesses to reduce energy bills and start their climate action journeys
- Ongoing social media campaigns
- Promotion via presentations at webinars and key events
- Exploring ideas for Phase 2
 - Support SMEs' compliance with CSRD?
 - Better tracking of emissions' reduction over time
 - Scope 3?

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