



Climate Readiness & Sustainable Businesses



Being Business Ready

The climate is changing and businesses are expected to be ready for uncertainty, plan for the unknown, reduce carbon impacts and become more sustainable.

While a specific, definitive percentage of “climate-ready” businesses in the UK is difficult to pinpoint, data suggests that almost half (44%) of UK companies now have structured climate plans in place, and a majority (two-thirds) are concerned about climate change. This indicates a significant shift towards climate action, but also highlights that immediate activity may be lagging.

Aviva's annual Climate-Ready Index reports that a large majority of businesses see climate action as currently unaffordable.

Why is business readiness so important?

Business readiness for a changing climate involves preparing for the physical and transition risks associated with climate change. This includes anticipating, adapting, and responding to potential impacts, ensuring business continuity, and incorporating sustainability into operations. Organisations can achieve this by developing contingency plans, investing in resilient infrastructure, and collaborating with other stakeholders.

Understanding Climate Change Risks:

Businesses need to assess the potential impacts of climate change on their operations, supply chains, and stakeholders. This includes understanding both physical risks (like extreme weather events) and transition risks (like changes in regulations and consumer preferences).

Developing Contingency Plans:

Creating plans to address potential disruptions, such as supply chain delays or infrastructure damage, is crucial.

Investing in Resilience:

This includes investing in infrastructure that can withstand climate impacts, such as building-code updates, and developing technologies that reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency.

Integrating Climate Considerations:

Climate-related factors should be incorporated into

decision-making processes, including financial planning, risk management, and strategic planning.

Collaboration and Partnerships:

Working with other businesses, governments, and communities can facilitate coordinated response efforts and knowledge sharing.

Change Management:

Addressing the challenges of organizational change, including employee resistance, requires effective change management strategies and clear communication.

Training and Awareness:

Implementing training and awareness initiatives can enhance organizational learning and promote a positive attitude towards climate change.

Measuring and Tracking Progress:

Regularly monitoring and tracking progress towards climate goals can help identify areas for improvement and ensure accountability.

Embracing Innovation:

Encouraging innovation and experimentation can lead to new solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Supply Chain Engagement:

Businesses should extend their influence to their supply chains, advocating for carbon neutrality and supporting suppliers in their sustainability journeys.

Adaptation vs. Mitigation:

While mitigation focuses on reducing emissions, adaptation focuses on adjusting to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. Both are essential for business readiness.

Frameworks and Standards:

Organizations can use frameworks like ISO standards (e.g., 14090 and 14091) to assess climate risks and implement adaptation planning.

Examples of Business Actions:

Companies are taking various actions, including investing in renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, implementing waste reduction programs, and developing climate-related financial disclosures.

What stops businesses becoming climate ready?

Inherently, there are three main barriers. These are:

- knowledge: the limited (or potentially inaccurate) knowledge that many people have about climate change
- support: change can be daunting and there is often a lack of real support for businesses to make the necessary changes whilst remaining competitive
- cost: many fear that the costs of going green can be limiting, with many businesses already challenged by other external factors which affect their bottom line

How can we help?

Our lead trainer and consultant has a PhD in climate change and social change and has been working on the forefront of climate change over the last 10 years, working in both the UK and overseas advising local governments and businesses on the need for planned change.

We have been providing support to businesses, local government and not-for-profit organisations through both training and tailored support.

Our existing training programme has been based around two training programmes. These have been:

Sample Training Programme 1

Title
Climate Change and Sustainability for Voluntary Organisations
Duration
1 Day
Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">» begin engagement on a green/sustainable journey» establish the broader picture with regards to climate-change and sustainability» explore meanings of key terms» challenge myths/mis-information/fake news» address why it matters to them and why it matters to the people they work with
Target Audience
All Employees

Content

- » Climate Fresk (variation)
- » key terminology (incl. net zero, de-carbonization, climate justice, natural v built environments, sustainability)
- » what are greenhouse gases and how do we calculate their impact
- » how are things heating up and cooling down at the same time
- » recycling - is it greener?
- » the interconnectedness of the climate e.g. polar bears v flies
- » ethics and values - how they affect decision making on climate matters
- » the psychology of climate change (VERY simple introduction)
- » success stories (examples of companies already on the journey and seeing successes)
- » your questions

Outcomes

The challenges of a changing climate to businesses are identified, but the opportunities are also there. Businesses want to go on the journey to becoming green. Financial support and opportunities are identified.

Sample Training Programme 2

Title
Getting ready to apply for sustainable business funding opportunities.
Duration
2 Days
Target Audience
Business Leaders & Key Managers
Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">» establish the scope of what is needed to apply» broaden key terminology» understand carbon calculations (simply)» identify what needs to be done before applying» recognition that change needs to be organisation wide» identify potential funding sources



Content

- » key terminology (adaptation, carbon emissions, carbon footprint, climate breakdown, climate crisis, climate justice, biodiversity, global south, green-washing, mitigation, net zero, sustainability)
- » policies required
- » engaging and motivating members
- » leadership for change
- » setting achievable goals - planning for change (a) prioritising (b) broad and specific change (c) resourcing change
- » communicating change internally and externally
- » developing partnerships for learning
- » organisational processes (a) explore (b) reflect (c) act (d) learn
- » what a successful bid looks like
- » further support (what you need and where to get it)

Outcomes

Businesses in a position to begin their readiness journey. Barriers or blockers are recognised, but support is identified. Potential grants are identified.

Wider support

We can help you prepare for the journey to sustainability with other tailored solutions. We can offer:

- materials/policies to support you
- reviewing grant applications before submission
- coaching
- in-house support
- more specific training (such as carbon calculations, sustainable methods etc.)

Pricing

We do not have a singular scale of charges for these services. We base the costs on a number of factors including organisation size, number of attendees, venue (yours or one we procure), materials required and any follow-up support wanted.

Want to discuss this further?

We'd be happy to discuss your requirements and to provide you with a personalised costed programme of support. Or please get in touch with us by email or by completing the enquiry form on our website, the details of which are listed below.



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