THE SOLENT CLUSTER

HOW TO...

DECIDE WHAT DECARBONISATION SOLUTION IS BEST FOR YOUR ORGANISATION

As technology progresses there is more ways than ever to reduce your organisations emissions and decarbonise. Some of these are extremely low/no-tech solutions at low cost to you. Others require significant investment and will take a period of time to see positive returns – and everything in between. Selecting which ones are suitable for you will depend on a plethora of factors, including your operational necessities (perhaps you need a laboratory that is temperature controlled 24/7?), your culture (do your staff need education on reducing emissions?) your available capital (can you afford to install a new LED lighting system) and your strategy regarding return on investment (is your desired payback period on installing solar panels to generate your own electricity 2 years, 5 years, 7 years?).

When identifying WHAT approach to adopt, it can be useful to consider WHY you wish to decarbonise. The steps required to purely cut costs on energy may be quite different to the ones that actively cut the most emissions from an environmental standpoint.

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STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

1. IDENTIFY A LIST OF WAYS YOUR ORGANISATION COULD DECARBONISE

Options to assist:

- Larger organisations may wish to conduct a full ESOS (Energy Saving Opportunity Scheme) survey in which an independent third party will conduct a comprehensive appraisal of your energy usage, subsequently providing a report including recommendations on how to reduce emissions and decarbonise. ESOS surveys may be required by law in some instances.
- Employee survey and idea contribution.
- Review bills/energy usage data to help identify timings for spikes in emissions, wastage, or equipment with high consumption (e.g. heating office space overnight).
- Observe and assess common practises and behaviours of staff, noting adherence to or divergence from energy awareness guidance.
- Consider becoming ISO50001 accredited (Energy Management System)

2. CATEGORISE STRATEGIES TO SHORT/MEDIUM/LONG TERM

Identify 'quick wins' that can make a difference in the short term. Implementing these will help to establish a culture of emission awareness and engage staff in actively contributing towards continuous improvement.

For medium- and longer-term strategies a more detailed assessment may be required to assess capital expenditure and Return on Investment (ROI).

3. PRIORITISE STRATEGIES

Some strategies may initially seem expensive and resource intensive in the establishment phase, but pay off surprisingly quickly. By assessing the ROI for each strategy, an organisation can decipher a chronological order in which they wish to approach their implementation, if at all. This is useful for goal setting and anticipating future costs and opportunities.

4. DOCUMENT PROGRESS AND PLANS

By keeping recorded evidence of decarbonisation an organisation can:

- Track progress against the planned objectives:
- Advertise their strategies and include them in bids for business opportunities (Larger weighting then ever is being applied to social value scores on bids for major contracts)
- Ensure compliance with Legal and Other requirements
- Provide evidence to apply for/and maintain certifications

TIPS AND TRICKS

Consider:

- **Innovation:** Technology changes quickly and costs reduce. Do not permanently dismiss strategies based on previous quotations. Re-visit plans and update associated costs. Initiatives will become more affordable with time.
- **Certifications and Awards:** Display any sustainability certifications, such as ISO 14001, ISO 50001 or BREEAM, to show your commitment to environmental best practice.
- **Create a Positive Work Culture:** Foster the culture of individuals taking responsibility for their energy usage and carbon reduction both at work and at home.

LINKS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Government guidance on ESOS compliance

Environment Agency Info

StandardAero – Home