



Supporting the Net Zero Journey for SMEs

This programme is designed to guide Scottish businesses towards achieving Net Zero emissions, aligning with the Scottish Government's 2045 target. The programme is structured as a five-stage journey, which includes the creation of a comprehensive Net Zero action plan tailored to each business.

Results of a recent survey undertaken by Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce suggests that most SMEs are keen to develop net zero strategies, but are overwhelmed by information that is not particularly specific to their businesses, and a cluttered landscape which seems to have no single point of entry. They often lack the time and resource to get started and 68% said they could not afford, or would not pay, for the support they know they need.

Our programme offers a solution to these challenges by providing SMEs with bespoke guidance on their journey towards Net Zero. This not only facilitates the implementation of necessary changes but also opens up new opportunities within the supply chain.

Programme Structure:

Through our extensive engagement with Chamber members, partners, stakeholders and net zero experts, we have identified a 5 step programme which will provide tailored, practical support to SMEs and help them cut through some of the clutter that exists within this landscape currently.

Step 1 - Discovery and Awareness Raising

In this stage, we will provide participants with an understanding of what Net Zero means, why businesses need to think about net zero strategies, and the innovative and competitive supply chain opportunities that can follow businesses having green credentials. This will be delivered by our partners, the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute (ECCI).

Step 2 - Measurement and Assessment

In this stage, we will help businesses to measure and assess their current position, set targets and agree who will lead on net-zero activity within the business.

Step 3 - Action Planning

Our final workshop will enable participants to take action by providing support with writing their own net-zero action plan. Each plan will transparently outline strategies for reducing emissions to net zero by 2045 at the latest. The plans will include short and medium-term targets and align with a major carbon accounting methodology.

Step 4 - Delivery

At this stage, businesses will take the lead and implement their plans, with 1-2-1 support.

Step 5 - Review and Impact

By this stage, our cohorts will have been through a comprehensive, practical programme with tailored support offered at every stage. We will take time to work with them on a 1-2-1 basis to assess progress against their baseline impact measurement.

Time:

Due to the bespoke and tailored nature of this programme, a small cohort of up to 12 organisations will be enrolled. Delegates will take part in 3 workshops (one per month), running over a 3 month period. There will be an option to attend in-person in Edinburgh, or to join virtually on request but delegates attendance in person is recommended. As delegates will be taking part in group work and receive the most value attending in person.

Dates:

- Wednesday 18th September
- Wednesday 23rd October
- Wednesday 20th November

All sessions will run 9:30am - 12:30pm at Edinburgh Climate Change Institute, High School Yards, Edinburgh EH1 1LZ

Who is this aimed at?

SMEs in Scotland with 7 or more staff are open to apply. This is aimed at senior decision makers within organisations, with responsibility for sustainability plans and strategies.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to apply early, as spaces are limited.