



Climate Week

How To Write An Environmental Policy

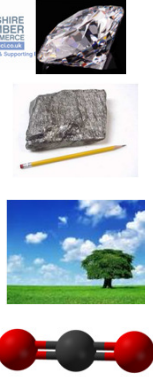



Carbon

Carbon is the 15th most abundant element in the Earth's crust.

It is present in all known lifeforms - in the human body it is the second most abundant element by mass.

Carbon has an affinity for bonding with other small atoms – it is known to form almost ten million different compounds.








Who Are You?

- BBEF is West Yorkshire's Green Business Club. We
 - Give 1:1 advice
 - Circulate news
 - Run briefings
 - Provide training

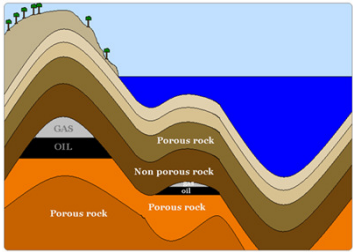



To businesses and organisations ir
We've been doing this for 15 years, we've got 2,200 people on our mailing list, and 500+ come to our events each year.

To see what we are doing next, look at www.bbef.org.uk and www.eco-fair.co.uk

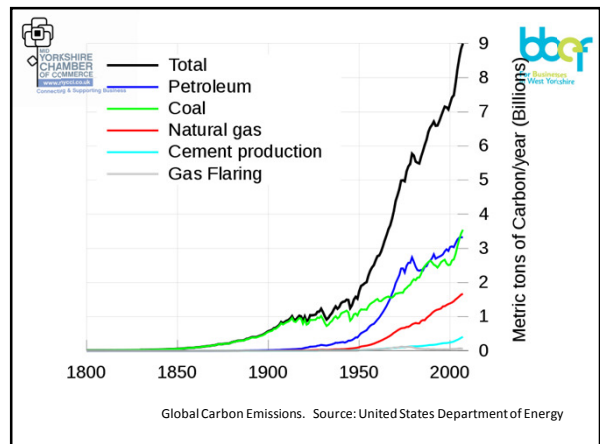



Carbon & Industry




1. What is climate week all about?
Carbon, Atmospheric Science
2. Environmental Policy
Goals, Structure, Progress
3. Projects
Legislation, Awareness, Reduction



Greenhouse Gases

A greenhouse gas is a gas that absorbs and emits radiation within the thermal infrared range.

Greenhouse gases greatly affect the temperature of the Earth; without them, Earth's surface would be on average about 33 °C colder than at present

Carbon Dioxide is a greenhouse gas.

The Greenhouse Effect

Some of the sun's energy is reflected back into space

Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere trap some of the heat

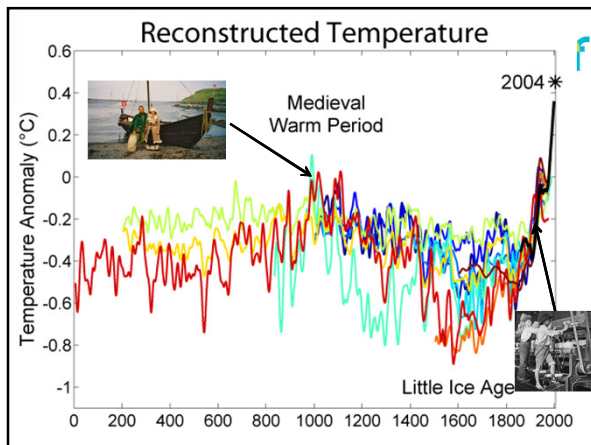
Solar energy passes through the atmosphere, warming the Earth

Stern Report

- Carbon emissions have already pushed up global temperatures by half a degree Celsius
- If no action is taken, there 75%+ chance of a 2 – 3 degrees Celsius global temperature rise over the next 50 years. This could reduce global economic output by 3%. The poorest countries would lose more than 10% of their output
- Melting glaciers will increase flood risk
- Crop yields will decline, particularly in Africa
- Rising sea levels could leave 200 million people permanently displaced
- Up to 40% of species could face extinction
- There will be more examples of extreme weather patterns
- In the worst case scenario global consumption per head would fall 20%

Nicholas Stern, Former Chief Economist, World Bank

To stabilise at manageable levels, emissions would need to stabilise in the next 20 years and fall between 1% and 3% after that. This would cost 1% of GDP



Options for Change

- Reduce consumer demand for heavily polluting goods and services
- Make global energy supply more efficient
- Act on non-energy emissions - preventing further deforestation would go a long way towards alleviating this source of carbon emissions
- Promote cleaner energy and transport technology, with non-fossil fuels accounting for 60% of energy output by 2050

An Inconvenient Truth

- Of all published stories on climate change, 53% imply that there is disagreement, or otherwise cast doubt on global warming being a serious problem
- Of a sample of 928 peer-reviewed scientific papers on climate change from the last decade, none (zero, 0) disagree with the consensus that man-made pollution has caused most of the warming of the last 50 years

Al Gore, Vice-President of the USA during Bill Clinton's Regime

Climate Week 21-27 March 2011

Small Business's BIG IDEA on CLIMATE CHANGE

Transition Network.org

Friends of the Earth

WWF

Shell Springboard

Why "Environment"?

- We want to be good people!
- Environmental Regulations
- Environmental Policy & Environmental Management – required by big Buyers
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Sustainability = stable
- Money



Structure

1. Who are we (context)
2. Why Environment is important to us
3. Comply with legislation (can mention)
4. Improve our performance (can specify)
5. Annual review
6. Sign off (name, title, date)

How to Write an Environmental Policy



1. Who We Are

- Short paragraph to give the reader some context for your policy
- A one man lawnmowing business is very different from a multinational!
- You can usually lift from your marketing
- You can mention your vision or company ethics




Principles

- Public document – shared with staff, buyers, suppliers, displayed
- Comes from the top – signed by MD or equivalent
- Checked annually – updated as business changes
- 1 page document – headline goals, simple language
- Reflect your business and your areas of biggest environmental impact
- Backed up by an action plan or monitoring...?
- You can look at similar businesses to you or your biggest buyers to get ideas or follow a style

2. Why it's important to us

- As already mentioned today –
 - You want your business to be sustainable
 - You want to reduce your impacts on the environment
 - You want to use energy and materials wisely to minimise your environmental footprint and save money



3. Comply with Legislation

UK and EU Regulations apply to businesses, covering

- Pollution control
 - Physical waste, waterways, air
- Carbon Reduction
 - Big businesses and organisations
- Energy Certificates
 - Domestic, Large Public Buildings
- You can also mention any industry codes of practice you adhere to (FSC, ISO 14001... etc)
- **You don't have to specify the regulations you conform to**

WYTS




4. Improvement

- You can run ad-hoc projects or initiatives
- Some businesses have environmental champions or groups
- Having good records for monitoring and measuring lets you prove your improvements
- You can create an environmental action plan
- For bigger projects, you may need to allocate resources (staff time, a budget, money to invest in equipment)
- There is no right answer – you should develop what structures suit your business




3. Info on Green Regs

- Check <http://www.netregs.gov.uk/>
- Sign up for updates
- Your trade or industry bodies may keep you briefed
- BBEF can help
- We'll cover a few basics later




4. Goals

- Transport
- Recycling
- Packaging
- Waste
- Water Use
- Energy Use
- Chemicals used
- Sustainable sourcing – FSC, local,...
- Noise, odour, traffic your business generates...




4. Improve Our Performance

- Most companies aim to reduce their environmental impacts
 - Using less energy (you can make this per. employee or per. unit manufactured)
 - Using less raw materials
 - Creating less waste






4. Biggest Impact

- Most businesses focus on the areas of biggest environmental impact
- You can formally set and score these, but as a rule of thumb, think about
 - Areas of biggest risk
 - Areas of biggest cost




5. Annual Review

- An annual review with a Chief Exec / Management Group
 - Lets you update the Policy to reflect changes (business growth, new markets)
 - Makes sure that managers are reminded about environmental work
 - Gives you a chance to highlight successes, bid for more resources, or cues you to think about how new regulations affect you


Waste Hot Spots!





- Do you keep a copy of your waste contractor's waste transfer / processing licence?
- Do you get a note every time waste is collected? Is it accurate
- Do you keep waste records for 3 years?
- Do you segregate fluorescent tubes, batteries, electrical items?
- Bulk collections of paper and cardboard may be free
- Any clean waste streams or items in good condition could be reused. Use www.whywaste.org.uk





6. Sign Off



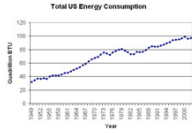


- Should be a Senior Manager (they are legally responsible and would be prosecuted if you broke environmental regs)
- Date lets you see when the policy needs to be reviewed
- Shows your senior management commitment



Power Tips

- Do a spot check on switch-off routines – and encourage these
- Get a thermometer and control temperature to this standard – 19 is comfortable
- Track your energy use (in units) on a graph to help you see trends
- Check your rates annually – for a small user, reasonable rates are 8p per unit for electric and 4p per unit for gas.
- Use a free broker to get a better deal – be aware of the 90 day cancellation period
- If you have air conditioning systems of over 12kw, you need to get the inspected every 5 years

Could add...




- Work on training or communication
- Your environmental purchasing...?
- Assisting customers to use your goods in an environmentally friendly way...?



What Else?




- Engage staff – the best ideas come from those who understand your business best
- Get involved – bbef networks and events will keep you briefed, give you good ideas and let you meet others who are involved in greening their businesses





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bbef
For Businesses
in West Yorkshire

- Have a go at drafting an environmental policy
 - Sam, John and Barry can help
 - We have some sample policies for you to look at
 - Barry has an exercises where you can review some sample policies and spot strengths and weaknesses



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