

WHY SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAINS ARE IMPORTANT

Whatever the size and nature of your business, ensuring that you have a sustainable supply chain is key to delivering on your own business' sustainable development. On average supply chains produce five times the amount of carbon emissions than that of your own business, and is why as buyers, sustainable purchasing practices should be adopted.



> TALKING TO YOUR TEAM

Engaging staff in the development of your sustainable supply chain policy is essential as they are the people who will make it work. Training is also vital given that some of your new purchasing decision may deviate from standard practice.

Be sure to include sustainable development as a standard meeting agenda item and in circulars; routinely sharing positive progress (no matter how large or small) and gathering input and feedback from staff.

> TALKING TO YOUR VISITORS

Your commitment to a sustainable supply chain is a great opportunity to market your business to customers. 87% of consumers want brands to act now to encourage future sustainability, so it's important to talk to your visitors!

Explain how you're aiming to buy goods and services from local businesses, how you're using suppliers based on their good practices and you're ensuring efficient use of transport for your deliveries.

56%* of Visit Wales enquirers believe that businesses should commit to sourcing and buying local produce. Here's some tips on how you can do that.

3 Collaborate

Regularly inform your suppliers of your environmental and sustainability policies and ask them to do the same. Good practice should be shared, and will help to support sustainability all round.

1 Look Local

The most effective approach to creating a sustainable supply chain is by engaging with local suppliers. Pick a radius around your business and look at what is available closer to you. This is an excellent way to reduce your carbon footprint.

2 Change Your Policy

Create a written policy to guide staff on how to choose suppliers. Your policy should cover all products, such as food, beverages, uniforms and any consumables as well as services such as construction, laundry or cleaning facilities.

4 Circular Options

A true commitment to sustainable development means shifting to a circular business model. Look for suppliers who actively reduce the amount of materials used, reuse, repair, share or lend, refurbish and re-manufacture.

5 Avoid Greenwashing

Greenwashing involves companies making an unsubstantiated claim about a product, claiming to have a greater positive environmental impact than it actually does. Stick to the facts and be honest.

FUNDING OPTIONS

A number of banks offer green business finance with various eligibility criteria and loan sizes. Our resource efficiency advisors are available for you to talk through your needs. Here's a short list of where you can access finance:

- Development Bank Wales
- British Business Bank
- HSBC Green SME Fund
- NatWest – Green Loans
- Barclays Green Loan
- Virgin Money Sustainable Business Loan

QUICK ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

1

Research businesses local to you, and see if you can collaborate with them.

2

Review your current supply chain and see where you can make changes.

3

Highlight your local sources for food and drink etc to your visitors.

OPTIONS

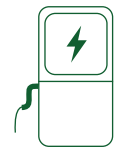
Food and other biological materials that are safe to return to nature can regenerate the land, fuelling the production of new food and materials.



Agree packaging take back arrangements (to reduce your own waste management costs and to encourage sustainable options).



To encourage use of electric vehicles, consider installing charging facilities (as a means of generating additional revenue for your business and encouraging clean transport).



RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Business Wales: Green Growth Pledge

FSB: How to achieve sustainable procurement

WRAP Sustainable Procurement – Early Market Engagement

Winning Welsh Government Contracts

If you would like further support on introducing supply chain measures into your business, get in touch with our team today.

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