

Climate Emergency Commercial Ask

On 21 March 2019 councillors at Suffolk County Council voted to [declare a climate emergency](#), and in July 2020 Cabinet agreed a set of recommended actions arising from the work of a [Policy Development Panel](#). Suffolk County Council aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2030. Through practical action it aims to save money, generate income and reduce carbon emissions to net zero for its own operations and services. We want to ensure the environmental impact of the Council's procurement of goods, services and works is minimised in line with our response to the climate emergency.

We will therefore include environmental factors in the specification of requirements for goods, services and works. We will also include [Social Value](#) environmental benefits in the evaluation criteria of our tenders and quotations.

Supply Chain

Our ask of our contractors is to: -

- know the impact that your organisation has on the environment;
- have an Environmental Policy that embeds a culture of reducing negative environmental impacts within your organisation;
- ensure your environmental impact is measured and regularly reported and overseen at the highest level;
- reduce negative environmental impacts with a clear action plan outlining the work to be undertaken focusing on the biggest impacts, with key targets and timelines to the actions to be undertaken for example;
 - [if you use travel](#), reduce your mileage. For the miles that you are not able to reduce, travel in more environmentally friendly ways;
 - if you use building/s ensure that you have had Environmental building survey/s undertaken and mitigated the negative environmental impact;
- [work with your supply chain to know the environmental impact](#) of the goods/services you purchase and mitigate/reduce the negative impact, where the negative impact is not able to be reduced, offset the impact;
- work towards your organisation also being Carbon Net Zero by 2030.

Further information

The Carbon Charter is an accreditation recognising businesses for effective environmental management. The website includes a wealth of resources available to all businesses, providing support and guidance on carbon reduction and related activities:- www.carboncharter.org

- [Carbon Footprint Calculator](#)
- [Environmental Policy & Action Plan Guidance](#)
- [How to write an Environmental Action Plan](#)

Staff in Commercial Roles

(Budget Holders, Commissioners, Procurement, Contract Managers)

Our ask of our staff in commercial roles commissioning, procuring and managing our contracts and grants is to: -

- know the climate / environmental impact of the contracts for goods, services and/or works that you contract
- work with your contractors to reduce the negative climate / environmental impact of your contracts

When goods, services and/or works are recommissioned: -

- work with the Environment Strategy Team to ensure what you are purchasing is consistent with the aim of Carbon Net Zero by 2030;
- ensure your market engagement gives a clear message to the market that the Council has declared a Climate Emergency and that we aim for ourselves and our supply chain to be Carbon Net Zero by 2030. Use your market engagement to gain a good understanding of the potential Environmental offer from the market regarding the contract to be delivered;
- outline your requirements to reduce the negative environmental impact in the specification of requirements and what steps need to be taken to be Carbon Net Zero by 2030;
- ensure that the evaluation criteria include the [Social Value](#) Environment criteria and that these are weighted appropriately for the strength of the potential market response;
- ensure that in the contract, the contract management targets include the climate / environmental aspects outlined in your specification and also the contractor's Social Value offer;
- over the lifetime of the contract, regularly review with the contractor the climate / environmental impact of the contract to maximise how it can be mitigated.

Further information advice

- Climate Emergency Contract Management Checklist
- Guidance regarding how to evaluate Supplier Social Value Environmental bid offers
- Our [Social Value Annual Ask](#) which includes guidance regarding how contractors can add Environmental added value to our contractors