

Support for small businesses

Sustainability is our business! Is your business sustainable?

Background

The rising costs of energy, waste disposal, water, fuel and all natural resources are squeezing both SMEs¹ profit margins and the budgets of large public and private sector customers.

Most businesses are looking to cut their overheads and increase their efficiency to save money. Many customers, particularly in the public sector are also increasingly aware of the risks of using suppliers with low resource efficiency. Simply put, as energy and resource costs go up their suppliers costs go up.

Many large public and private sector organisations have taken time to increase their resource efficiency in house, to cut costs and also to reduce carbon emissions and are now looking to their suppliers for the same level of commitment to reducing environmental impacts and reducing their exposure to rising costs.



NEPs can provide energy and natural resource use audits that will identify areas to save money, carbon emissions and risk, helping to reinforce your sustainability credentials and enable your new and existing customers to review your environmental impact transparently.

Carbon can be used to calculate, monitor and display, internally or externally, your organisations natural resource efficiency demonstrating good financial, environmental and price risk management.

NEPs are a Nottingham based social enterprise, a wholly owned subsidiary of a charity, The Nottingham Energy Partnership. Any profit we make is reinvested into funding further carbon reduction projects to help reduce energy costs for vulnerable households and communities across the region.

Essentially we can double the positive economic, environmental and social impact of every pound you spend with us, through reinvestment into local energy saving projects.

¹ The European Commission (2003) describes micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding 50 million euro. http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/files/sme_definition/sme_user_guide_en.pdf

NEP Energy Services offer:

We are able to conduct bespoke assessments based on any, or all, of the following areas of energy and natural resource use:

- waste
- water + sewage
- energy
- travel and transport
- procurement

We can conduct technical site visits or desktop efficiency audits and carbon footprinting across all areas of natural resource use above, also looking at your supply chain to identify areas where you should focus in terms of cost risk as natural resource costs rise. We can also identify where customers will see you in terms of risk.

NEPs are delivering contracts for local councils, NHS Trusts and other private and public sector organisations across the Midlands in areas such as resource efficiency, carbon footprinting, travel planning, staff behaviour change, waste management and reduction, smart metering installation, design, specification and procurement of renewable energy systems.



What we offer:

1. A free 1hr meeting to determine business activity and scope. This will mean looking at bills and costs across waste, water & sewage, travel and energy. We will discuss your business activity, which sectors you supply to and what types of businesses supply you, in as much detail as you are comfortable to discuss.
2. From this preliminary meeting we will then decide with you the type of support that will be most appropriate for your business. This will take one of 2 routes.



Route 1: Nuts, bolts and volts

You may require a site visit from one of our consulting engineers to identify specific capital investment opportunities. An accredited and experienced surveyor will visit your site or a chosen area of your operations and conduct an opportunities assessment to determine capital investments most likely to represent a high return in terms of bill savings or revenue generation and also reduce your environmental impact. This could cover areas such as:

- Efficiency or efficient setting of specific machinery and plant
- Thermal imaging
- Ultrasonic leak detection
- Flue gas analyser to assess efficiency of heating systems
- Renewable energy opportunities analysis
- Diagnostic and advice on the setting on Building Energy Management Systems
- Images, photos and outline financial analysis of issues to evidence opportunities

Route 2: Lean, green and clean



You may alternatively require more desk based support. One of our professional team of environmental consultants will analyse and assess one or more areas of particular interest to identify potential financial and carbon savings, improve your businesses sustainability credentials and reduce financial risk. You could choose from one or more of:

1. Waste analysis, identifying and benchmarking your organisations waste management and waste arising to determine carbon footprint and potential savings.
2. Procurement analysis identifying your key carbon/energy price liabilities in your supply chain and how customers will see you in terms of carbon/price liability.
3. Energy analysis, on the basis of energy data provided producing energy use benchmarking and carbon footprint from your utility bills and energy use data.
4. Transport, fleet and fuel use analysis and carbon footprint
5. Water and sewage analysis in terms of costs and environmental impacts (this could be linked with option 3 for most SMEs)
6. Support in procuring and installing smart metering technology to enable you to better monitor and manage your energy and water use.

Route 3: Quick Boost



If you have no idea where to start or just need a quick boost, an alternative is a simple quick resource efficiency surgery. 3 hour support package including a 1 hr meeting, followed by a quick scan of your available bills and resource use records to identify for you where you could make most impact or you have most risk. Depending on the quality and quantity of data provided, we could quickly footprint your organisation and give simple pointers for further work.

Routes 1 and 2: Report

Whatever option is chosen, a short report will be produced to detail recommendations and findings identifying potential financial savings and how to use this to advance your environmental credentials and improve the attractiveness of your business offer to clients in your market sector.

Charges:

Our daily costs are £425 or £60 hourly (ex-VAT and travel costs).

The extent of the services required will be based upon the size of the organisation and the agreed scope of the assessment, although a typical report can be generated in between 1 ½ and 3 days.

It may also be possible, depending on your location, size and sector, for NEPs to find part funding to support the work.

Follow on collaborative projects:

If the analysis above identifies specific projects that may take further time and work, we will try to help you secure funding to take these forward.

Some SMEs may qualify for Enhanced Capital Allowances for equipment or for grant support for further assistance. You may just want to conduct a more full analysis of the financial and technical feasibility for a particular technology and test the market for costs, such as a renewable energy installation or a replacement or a key element of machinery.

With extensive experience of energy management and carbon footprinting consultancy in the region, we can assist your business to identify carbon and financial savings and will support you to make use of any funding or collaborative opportunities.



Contact us:

If you would like to discuss these opportunities and how we might be able to help your business, please contact us on the following details:

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