

DRIVING CHANGE:

TOP TIPS FOR DECARBONISING DELIVERIES



In 2024 Southwark Climate Collective (SCC) supported over 140 businesses to reduce their carbon emissions. By rethinking how, when, and where deliveries are made, your business can make a real difference. Take practical steps to reduce, retime, remode, and reroute your freight operations to shrink your carbon footprint.

Ready to make the shift? Explore these actionable strategies to drive greener, more efficient operations!

1. INSTALL A WASTE COMPACTOR

WHY?

- **To reduce waste collection frequency:** compacted waste takes up less space, meaning fewer collections are required.
- **To cut emissions:** fewer waste collections translate to lower vehicle emissions.

HOW?

- Research and install a compactor that suits your business's waste type and volume.
- Train staff on its proper use to ensure optimal performance.

2. ENGAGE STAFF TO MINIMISE PERSONAL DELIVERIES

WHY?

- **To reduce vehicle trips:** limits unnecessary courier visits.
- **To improve air quality:** fewer trips contribute to lower emissions.
- **To ease congestion:** reduces local traffic, especially during peak hours.
- **To streamline business operations:** less handling of external deliveries reduces packaging waste and workplace disruptions.

HOW?

- Create a policy encouraging staff to direct personal deliveries to home addresses.
- Provide alternatives, such as lockers or designated pickup points, to meet staff needs responsibly.

3. USE SUPPLIERS WITH LOCAL DEPOTS

WHY?

- **Efficient last-mile delivery:** local depots often rely on cleaner, smaller vehicles like cargo bikes or electric vans.
- **Lower emissions:** shorter delivery distances reduce fuel use.

HOW?

- Audit your current suppliers to identify those with local distribution hubs.
- Choose suppliers prioritising eco-friendly delivery methods.

4. ENCOURAGE LOW OR ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES

WHY?

- **To support decarbonisation:** helps reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- **To improve local air quality:** cuts down harmful pollutants.
- **To reduce emissions:** sustainable couriers often use bikes, EVs or other eco-friendly methods.
- **To ease local congestion:** fewer or smaller delivery vehicles on the road.

HOW?

- Engage suppliers by communicating your organisation's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and find out which suppliers can support you.
- Educate staff on the benefits of choosing green delivery options for business-related shipments.
- Request low emission or zero emission vehicles – the more requests from customers, the more likely couriers are to upgrade or offer low emission alternatives.

Reducing your carbon footprint is not just good for the planet - it's also a way to future-proof your business, improve your local community and boost your brand's reputation.

For more resources visit [Southwarkclimatecollective.co.uk](https://southwarkclimatecollective.co.uk)

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