

# WATT MATTERS:

## TOP TIPS FOR DECARBONISING ENERGY IN THE WORKPLACE



In 2024 the Southwark Climate Collective (SCC) supported over 140 businesses to reduce carbon emissions, cut costs, and increase efficiency. Energy use is a significant driver of carbon emissions but with the right strategies, your business can make meaningful changes that benefit the environment and your bottom line.

Explore these actionable tips for decarbonising your energy use!

### 1. ENCOURAGE STAFF TO ADOPT SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PRACTICES

#### WHY?

- **To improve efficiency:** Reducing unnecessary equipment use cuts energy wastage.
- **To reduce costs:** It's a cost-effective way to lower energy use and emissions, potentially saving 10% or more.

#### HOW?

- Switch off lighting, laptops, and communal area screens when not in use.
- Set devices to sleep/hibernate - sleep mode uses 80% less power, hibernation uses none.
- Engage staff in identifying energy-saving opportunities.
- Introduce an end-of-day check or walk around to ensure all energy consuming equipment is off.

### 2. INSTALL ROOFTOP SOLAR PANELS

#### WHY?

- **To cut emissions:** solar photovoltaic systems generate electricity without fossil fuels.
- **To stabilise costs and maximise savings:** solar shields businesses from volatile energy prices and surplus power can be fed back to the grid.

#### HOW?

- Consult a solar provider to conduct a feasibility study and design and install a system which is optimised for your energy needs.
- Explore government incentives and consider battery storage to optimise savings.

### 3. TRANSITION TO LOW CARBON HEATING SOLUTIONS

#### WHY?

- **To reduce carbon intensity:** traditional gas boilers are inefficient and fossil fuel-reliant.
- **To improve energy efficiency:** alternative solutions such as heat pumps deliver 3–4 times more energy than they consume and are powered by a greener grid, compared to natural gas.
- **To reduce long term costs:** While heat pumps cost more upfront, they save significantly on operating expenses over time.

#### HOW?

- Engage a professional to assess your building's needs. Heat pumps can be considered when boilers near the end of their life.
- Specialists can advise on retrofitting or whether a full replacement system would be recommended.
- Plan the installation to minimise disruption to building users.

### 4. UPGRADE INSULATION

#### WHY?

- **To reduce heat loss:** replacing single glazing with double glazing significantly reduces heat loss.
- **To enhance comfort:** better roof insulation prevents winter heat loss and summer overheating.
- **To cut costs and emissions:** insulating boiler pipes reduces wasted energy.

#### HOW?

- Check local planning rules before installing double glazing.
- Get three quotes for glazing and roof insulation from certified contractors (MCS Certified is a good resource for London).
- Identify exposed heating pipes, measure, purchase and fit insulation-this can often be done in-house or by a maintenance contractor.

## 5. INSTALL LED LIGHTING WITH INTELLIGENT CONTROLS

### WHY?

- **To lower energy consumption and reduce waste:** LEDs use up to 75% less power than fluorescents and last longer, cutting replacement frequency.
- **To optimise usage:** smart controls ensure lights are only used when needed.

### HOW?

- Replace all fluorescent bulbs with LED equivalents.
- Use sensors for automated controls and dimmable lights where needed.
- Regularly maintain emergency lighting systems to comply with safety standards.

Decarbonising your energy use strengthens your business's resilience, enhances your reputation and helps protect the environment for future generations. Let's build a brighter, greener tomorrow - together!

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

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