



WHAT YOU CAN DO

BUSINESSES



Tackling climate change takes all of us. We all generate emissions from nearly everything we do, from turning on the lights and adjusting our thermostats to driving to and from work. Here are some things that you can do to reduce the carbon footprint of your business.



ENERGY

BUY RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY

- Purchasing renewable power reduces everyone's reliance on oil, gas, and coal.
- For an average small business, it costs \$12/month to buy 100% renewable power.
- Enroll in [PGE's Green Futures program](#) and start buying renewable energy today!

GIVE YOUR BUSINESS AN EFFICIENCY MAKEOVER

- Upgrade to LED lighting.
- Use energy-saving strategies, like setting automatic timers for heating and lighting, can decrease your usage and save money. [The PGE Marketplace](#) offers discounts on smart thermostats and other energy efficient products.
- When it is time to buy new equipment, look to [EPA's Energy Star label](#).
- When it's time to replace your furnace or AC, go with a [heat pump](#).
- When it's time for a new water heater, go with an electric and/or heat pump water heater.

Incentives for businesses...

- The Energy Trust of Oregon offers a variety of [commercial incentives](#) to help you upgrade your business.

GO SOLAR

- Big parking lots or roofs may be good candidates for solar power.
- Combined with incentives from the Energy Trust of Oregon, PGE, and the federal government, these projects can pay back within a decade.
- Solar can be cost effective, decrease your footprint, strengthen the grid, and is a visible advertisement of your company's commitment to climate action. It's a win-win-win-win!
- Check out [this tool](#) to estimate your building's solar potential.

USE SMART ENERGY OFFSETS FOR YOUR NATURAL GAS USE

- Natural gas appliances such as gas furnaces, gas water heaters, and gas stoves are a source of carbon emissions.
- If you have a gas bill, enrollment in Smart Energy which puts a certain amount of money each month toward projects that mitigate carbon pollution, starting at \$5.50/month.
- Sign up for [Northwest Natural's Smart Energy program](#) to start offsetting your natural gas use today!



TRANSPORTATION

SWAP OUT FOSSIL DIESEL FOR RENEWABLE DIESEL

- Renewable diesel, like R99, can be used just like conventional diesel and is similar in price.
- The City of Tualatin's vehicle fleet is already running on R99 diesel and [all pump stations in Portland](#) will be selling it in the next few years.

TRANSITION TO AN ALL-ELECTRIC FLEET

- Start with your most high mileage vehicles.
- There are many federal and [state incentives](#) to encourage a switch.
- Switching to electric vehicles decreases fuel and maintenance costs and is usually an overall cost saver. Check out [this vehicle cost savings estimator](#).

HELP YOUR EMPLOYEES REDUCE (OR REMOVE) THEIR COMMUTES

- Alternative schedules, remote work, and altering shifts to align with transit schedules can reduce time and energy spent on commuting and increase job satisfaction.

SUPPORT ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC TRANSIT COMMUTES

- Install showers, lockers, and secure bike parking for employees who bike to work.
- Public transit options are limited in Tualatin, but employers can encourage use of transit by scheduling shifts to align with transit timings, [offering transit benefits](#) (employers get steep discounts), and by partnering with the City and other businesses to advocate to TriMet for increased transit in Tualatin.



SUPPLY CHAIN

WHAT YOU BUY

- Purchase supplies with lower carbon footprints such as post-consumer recycled paper.
- Buy only what you need. For example: reduce food waste when hosting events, limit promotional items that end up as trash, and closely monitor inventory surpluses.

WHAT YOU MAKE

- Incorporate post-consumer recycled content into your operations, like aluminum, cardboard boxes, paper, and plastic bottles to meet packaging needs. This decreases your own emissions and creates a market for recycled materials.
- Use sustainably harvested materials. Ask your suppliers where they source their materials. Many large companies, [like Walmart](#), are beginning to ask for sustainability reports from their vendors.
- The [Carbon Disclosure Project \(CDP\)](#) and [EcoVadis](#) are good resources to look into your suppliers' practices.