# NET ZERO STRATEGY

1. **STRATEGIES**

There are many business strategies, theories and models that reference Environmental challenges, Sustainability and Net Zero ambitions. Whether Internationally, Nationally, Locally, at a business level or as an individual, these are common topics of conversation and key drivers for positive change.

Reports, articles, and blogs on Social Value, ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance), PPP (People, Planet Profit - the triple bottom line) and tools such as the Responsible Business Map, can use as a guide or be used as a framework for businesses social purpose plans. Many of these include other pillars such as: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the Economy, People, Creating Opportunities, the Community, Health & Wellbeing and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI), but the themes of the Environment, Sustainability and Net Zero are a common denominator to all these other frameworks and business strategies.

# Legislation also exists in certain areas: for example the Social Value Act (2013) for Public Services [Social Value Act: information and resources - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-value-act-information-and-resources/social-value-act-information-and-resources) and Government Policy papers such as the Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021), which sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet the UK net zero target by 2050 [Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy).

1. **MEASUREMENT**

Another common factor of all strategy and theory is to strive to measure areas that we seek to improve. ‘What we don’t measure, we can’t manage or improve’.

Actions taken, and measurement of our own performance at Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber will be based on the use of the Business Energy and Efficiency Programme (BEEP) report, conducted by the BEEP Advisor in July 2022. Additionally, we will seek to complete the NatWest Carbon Planner survey [Carbon footprint calculator | NatWest](https://www.natwest.com/banking-with-natwest/our-purpose/climate/what-is-a-carbon-footprint/carbon-footprint-calculator.html), in March 2023, to provide a baseline of data which we will then re-measure in March 2024.

Additionally, there are globally recognised standard frameworks that support businesses to achieve specific environmental goals, such as IOS14001 [ISO - ISO 14001 and related standards — Environmental management](https://www.iso.org/iso-14001-environmental-management.html).

B Corp status [The UK B Corporation Movement](https://bcorporation.uk/) is becoming increasingly well known in the UK and Globally. There are 1000+ businesses with this status in the UK and 6000+ Globally. Local best examples are Members (Bio Pak) and well-known brand The Little Soap Company who have achieved B Corp status. B Corps theory is that ‘we need an inclusive, equitable and regenerative economic system for all people and the planet. Let’s use business as a force for good’.

Whilst gaining accreditations and certifications don’t currently form part of the current strategy, it may form part of the action plan to research these, with a view to establishing cost benefit to implementing either accreditation.

1. **Actions**

An action plan will be created relating to our Net Zero Strategy and this will form part of our Social Value Strategy and overall Social Value action plan.

1. **Responsibility**

Ownership, accountability and support for this strategy will be the responsibility of all Chamber of Commerce employees, the leadership team and the Board. The action plan will be driven, owned and implemented by the ‘Green Team’.

1. **Best Practice and policy**

Many of the actions will be around purchase decisions which analyse return on investment, or smarter purchasing. However, some actions will be the responsibility of all, to always adhere to ‘Best Practice Policy’ guidelines. These include:

**Heating/Cooling**

* Start and stop times of heating/cooling will be 30 mins/1 hr each end of the day inside the start and end of the average working day
* Heating/Cooling. The main office temperature will be set to 19/20 degrees in winter and 24 degrees cooling in summer)
* In mid months, the heating/cooling will be switched off altogether and we will rely on opening windows for fresh air
* Outside these temperatures staff should manage with individual requirements (such clothing, heat mats)
* Heating/cooling in meeting rooms will be turned on/off close to meeting times
* Reception, landing, stairs temperature will be set at frost protection levels only (17/18 degrees and high 20s for cooling
* Continue use of window films to improve building efficiency.

**Lighting**

* Lighting in the main office and training rooms should only be used where necessary. We will prevent ‘over glare’ of too many lights on by using zones, sensors and LED lighting where possible.

**Travel**

* Lift sharing must be considered for all business mileage. Arrangements should be made to ensure this is a priority for all journeys
* Sharing commuter journeys should also be considered
* Encouragement of delegates to share journeys to events
* Where possible, facilitating the arrangement of the above and rewarding this.

**Waste reduction**

* Reduction of waste to landfill must be considered a priority
* Reduce recycling volumes. Use of paper will be the greatest considerations, and examples could include the reduction of printing by greater use of technology (eg emailing notes, using IT to view agendas/papers at meetings, QR codes for delegate lists)
* Where marketing material is still required, recycling materials should always be considered and print quantities should always be carefully considered to keep recycling waste to a minimum post the expiry date of the material.

1. **CHAMBER MEMBERS**

As a Chamber of Commerce our reach and scope to support this vital strategy extends beyond the Chamber as a business itself. Through our Membership work we will therefore seek to share best practice, opportunities and knowledge to positively educate and influence our local businesses to achieve greater net zero results themselves. This will be actioned through our website, events and training services.