



Net Zero and Sustainability

Business Insights report

April 2023

Foreword

This report marks the second year running in which we have tracked local business sentiment towards environmental sustainability and it's reassuring to see the ongoing commitment businesses across Greater Birmingham have towards reducing their carbon footprint. The underlying dedication of many local firms to achieving net zero is to be praised especially given the myriad of challenges they are encountering on a daily basis. Despite facing spiralling energy costs, record levels of inflation and global supply chain disruption many businesses across the region are continuing to raise the bar on environmental best practice.

Nevertheless, it's clear that a number of barriers are hindering firms from reaching their sustainability goals – namely, a lack of access to vital knowledge and expertise on the topic and the associated financial costs in implementing these policies. In addition, skyrocketing energy bills, in part, exacerbated by the volatility in international gas prices has accelerated the need for energy efficient measures – despite the welcome introduction of the Energy Bill Relief Scheme for domestic users.

As a Chamber, we will continue to support businesses in these challenging conditions, ensuring they are provided with the appropriate guidance required in their net zero journey, as demonstrated through our Sustainable Business Series which saw over 30 firms contribute to the campaign throughout October.

Over the coming year, it is vital that businesses are supported to take advantage of the green economy and embrace the opportunities associated with decarbonising. The Chambers will continue to play a key role in supporting businesses, through helping them to connect, support and grow, allowing them to realise the benefits of the transition to net zero.



Raj Kandola

Director of External Affairs, Greater Birmingham
Chambers of Commerce

Executive Summary

Business perspectives on environmental impact

- In 2022, 65% of businesses implemented measures specifically aimed at reducing their environmental impact.
- In 2022, 38% of businesses implemented measures for the previous 12 months and 33% have already implemented measures and intend to introduce additional measures in the future.
- The main barriers faced by organisations, in attempting to reduce their carbon footprint included lack of grants, lack of time and the cost of implementing low carbon technology.

Businesses and net zero

Carbon Footprint and Emissions

- 79% of businesses felt over the past 12 months, reducing carbon/greenhouse gas emissions had become more of a priority for their organisation.
- 26% of respondents stated they have not implemented any measures to reduce their carbon/greenhouse gas emissions.
- There are an increasing number of organisations adopting technologies that could be used to lower organisations carbon emissions. For example, 69% stated they had adopted LED lighting whilst 30% stated they had adopted the use of Solar panels and Electric, hybrid or hydrogen vehicles.

Energy

- Energy prices have risen significantly. 21% of respondents have seen their energy prices increase by 0-50%, whilst 14% of respondents stated their energy bills have increased by 51-100% compared to January 2022.
- Businesses have been taking steps to reduce the costs of energy over the last 12 months. 65% of respondents noted they have taken steps to reduce their energy costs in the last 12 months.

Climate Risk

- 29% of organisations have taken steps to increase their resilience against climate change and its potential risks. This is compared to 44% who have stated they haven't taken steps to increase their resilience.

Barriers to achieving net zero

- 3 major barriers identified include:
 - cost (55% cited this as a barrier)
 - knowledge/understanding (48% cited this as a barrier)
 - economic conditions (38% cited this as a barrier).
- 28% of respondents from the West Midlands indicated they would like to reach net zero but do not understand what it entails. Similarly, 27% stated they would like to reach net zero but do not believe it is possible for their organisation.

About the Chambers of Commerce

The Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce (GBCC) are membership-led, business support organisation that act as the voice of local businesses. The Chambers dedicate themselves to connecting, supporting and growing local businesses through a range of business focussed services. This includes providing a platform for members to use their experience and expertise to engage with local authorities, national Government and industry leaders on key business issues.

Introduction

This report collates the findings of quantitative and qualitative research conducted across 2022, to provide an overview of business sentiment towards sustainability and net zero. This report provides an analysis, with a comparison to the previous year's research and includes a variety of case studies that serve to highlight the increasing commitment toward net zero seen amongst Greater Birmingham businesses.

This report uses data from the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce Quarterly Business Report (QBR) survey, conducted in Q3 of 2022, and the Chambers post-event survey which attendees were asked to complete after attending webinars and events, from the 30th September to the 2nd November, as part of the GBCC's Sustainable Business Series, the Chambers flagship campaign on sustainability and net zero. This report has also utilised data from the British Chambers Energy and net zero survey, conducted from the 12th to the 30th October.

This research provides insight into the methods utilised by the business community in engaging with the sustainability agenda, and how regional stakeholders can continue to support businesses in the region embarking on their net zero journey.

Chapter 1: 1 Year On - Business Perspectives on Environmental Impact

Introduction

This chapter uses data from the GBBC Q3 Quarterly Business Report 2021 and 2022 (Q3QBR21 and Q3QBR22). In Q3 of 2021, the QBR Aimed to explore the challenges related to environmental sustainability, facing businesses in the region. This section will look to track the changes in perceptions and attitudes towards net zero and sustainability over the last 12 months.

This chapter highlights the implementation of measures aimed at reducing environmental impact, the approaches taken by businesses in reducing their environmental impact and the barriers faced by organisations in reducing their environmental impact.

Has your organisation implemented any measures specifically aimed at reducing your environmental impact to date?

Q1	2021	2022	% Change
Yes	59%	65%	6%
No	33%	26%	-7%
Don't know	8%	9%	1%

- 65% of businesses indicated they had implemented measures specifically aimed at reducing their environmental impact compared to last year.
- This increase is made more impactful by the fact that there has been a drop in the percentage of businesses who state that they have not implemented measures aimed at reducing their environmental impact.

Which option describes your approach to improving your environmental impact to date?

Q2	2021	2022	% Change
Implemented measures for the past 12 months	35%	38%	3%
Implemented measures for the past 1-3 years	33%	31%	-1%
We have implemented measures for 3 years plus	33%	31%	-2%

- The above data highlights the rate in which organisations are increasing measures to improve their environmental impact with a 3% increase in the number of businesses stating they have implemented environmental measures for the past 12 months in 2022 compared to 2021.

- A higher percentage of organisations stated they have implemented measures for the past 12 months (38%) compared to those who implemented measures for the past 1-3 years (31%), with 7% more respondents stating they implemented measures for the past 12 months.

Which option best describes your approach to reducing your environmental impact looking forward?

Q3	2021	2022	% Change
We have not implemented measures to date but intend to in the short term (next 12 months)	8%	9%	1%
We have not implemented measures to date but intend to in the longer term (12 months plus)	11%	4%	-7%
We have not implemented measures to date and have no current plans to implement any in future	10%	6%	-4%
We have already implemented measures and intend to introduce additional measures in the short term (next 12 months)	24%	23%	-1%
We have already implemented measures and intend to introduce additional measures in the longer term (12 months plus)	27%	33%	6%
We have already implemented measures and have no current plans to implement any further measures in future	9%	17%	8%
Don't know	10%	6%	-4%

- In 2021 a greater number of firms responded stating they have implemented measures and intended to introduce additional measures in the longer term (27%). This was the same in 2022 where more businesses responded stating they have implemented measures and intended to introduce additional measures in the longer term (33%), an increase of 6%.
- The biggest change compared to 2021 was seen in the percentage of organisations who have already implemented measures and have no current plans to implement any further measures in the future, with an increase of 8% from 9% in 2021 to 17% in 2022.
- The biggest decline was seen in organisations who have not implemented measures but intend to in the longer term, from 11% in 2021 down to 4% in 2022. A decline of 7%.

Chapter 2: Businesses and Net Zero

Introduction

This chapter will use data from the Sustainable Business Series (SBS) post-event survey. The Sustainable Business Series is the Chambers flagship campaign on sustainability, seeking to provide businesses with insight and guidance on achieving net zero. This chapter will also utilise data from the British Chambers of Commerce's energy survey which took place from the 12th October to the 30th October. Across the West Midlands, over 170 businesses completed the survey, highlighting the perspectives of West Midlands businesses on achieving Net Zero. This chapter will highlight the range of issues facing businesses and will look to share details on the actions being taken by businesses in becoming more environmentally friendly organisations.

Carbon Footprint and Emissions

According to the SBS post-event survey, mitigating the impact of climate change had become a key priority for firms in the region. 79% of respondents felt over the past 12 months, reducing carbon/greenhouse gas emissions had become more of a priority for their organisation. More interestingly, 0% of respondents stated reducing their emissions had become less of a priority for their organisation, indicating a shift in mentality from businesses in the region. Organisations have also been acting on their own greenhouse gas emissions; 74% of respondents stated they had implemented measures to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Of these, 35% implemented measures in the past 12 months, 23% implemented measures for the past 1-3 years and 16% implemented measures for the past 3 years and more.

26% of respondents indicated they had not implemented any measures to reduce their carbon footprint. A significant number of respondents of the SBS post-event survey have highlighted a shift in mentality towards their carbon footprint. 62% of businesses stated that they have previously taken steps to lower their carbon footprint, whilst only 19% stated that they have not taken steps to lower their carbon footprint. Examples of measures that have been taken include:

- Use of a virtual office and mainly working from home, minimising car travel.
- Using renewable electricity and engaging with landlord to make heating and cooling more efficient.
- Encouraging staff to walk to work and use public transport over personal vehicles.

Surveying from the British Chambers of Commerce in their survey on Energy & Net Zero underlined the growing number of local businesses that are utilising technology in order to lower their carbon emissions. For example, 69% of respondents mentioned they had adopted LED lighting whilst 30% stated they had adopted the use of Solar panels and Electric, hybrid or hydrogen vehicles.

Energy

Respondents in the SBS post-event survey have highlighted the significant impact of rising energy costs that they have been faced with. 21% of respondents have seen their energy prices increase by 0-50%, whilst 14% of respondents stated their energy bills have

increased by 51-100% compared to January 2022. Furthermore, businesses have been taking steps to reduce the costs of energy over the last 12 months. 65% of respondents stated they have taken steps to reduce their energy costs in the last 12 months whilst only 12% have stated they haven't taken steps. A number of organisations provided examples of the steps they have taken to reduce their energy costs. Examples of measures taken include:

- An SME operating in manufacturing introducing procedure changes, encouraging staff to not use lighting and other energy using appliances, unless needed.
- An SME in professional services moving away from the usage of storage heaters in the Office and switching off devices overnight.
- An SME operating in construction highlighted the usage of LED lighting for offices, PV and Airsource heat pumps for products.

Similar points are noted in the British Chambers of Commerce survey on energy and net zero. In this survey West Midlands businesses referenced the ongoing need for Government support and guidance as they embark on their net zero journey. Indeed, 61% of respondents saw energy costs as being one of the key priorities for Rishi Sunak. This is made further clear by respondents highlighting the growing difficulty in their organisations ability to pay for their energy usage.

The survey asked businesses how difficult they would find it to pay for their energy bills. 23% stated they would find it very difficult to pay for their energy bills after 31st March 2023. 3% of respondents indicated they would not be able to pay after 31st March 2023, which is the end of the Energy Bills Relief Scheme. This highlights the growing sentiment of businesses, that without support for paying energy bills, businesses will face an uncertain few months ahead especially given the broader economic challenges they are currently facing.

Climate risk

According to respondents of the SBS post-event survey, climate risk is an area where organisations will need more encouragement and support to understand. Organisations felt confident of their capability to adapt to adverse climate conditions. 53% of organisations stated they would be able to adapt to adverse climate shocks such as heatwaves or flooding, whilst only 3% stated they would not be able to adapt. Of the organisations who have taken steps, examples of measures taken include:

- An SME who operated in manufacturing stated that they are designing products around climate change impact.
- An SME who operated in construction stated that they have made changes to drainage design to allow for climate change impact.

Barriers to achieving Net Zero

Data from the SBS post-event survey highlights some of the key barrier's businesses face in achieving net zero. The three major barriers identified include cost (55% cited this as a barrier), Knowledge/understanding (48% cited this as a barrier) and economic conditions (38% cited this as a barrier).

Similar sentiments were expressed within the GBCC 2022 Q3 Quarterly Business Report with just under a quarter of businesses referencing a lack of grant funding as the main impediment in reducing their environmental impact are. Other notable barriers highlighted include Lack of time (24%), Cost of low carbon technology (23%) and Lack of capital or

finance (18%). The Cost of low carbon technology has further been highlighted for the change compared to 2021; there was a 7% increase from 16% in 2021 to 23% in 2022. The financial costs associated with achieving net zero has clearly been highlighted amongst the business community as a barrier to achieving net zero. The costs have been seen as difficult to justify when considering the rising pressures businesses currently face. Research conducted in the GBBC's Quarterly Business Report from Q4 2022 highlighted that 58% of businesses expect their prices to go up in 2023; the main reasons for this include labour costs (26%) and the cost of utilities (23%). As a result, it is not surprising that businesses across the region struggle to see the financial value in achieving net zero.

The issue of knowledge and understanding is also highlighted by respondents in the British Chambers survey on energy and net zero. 28% of respondents from the West Midlands expressed their desire to reach net zero but do not understand what it involves. Similarly, 27% stated they would like to reach net zero but do not believe it is possible for their organisation. Many respondents highlighted the role of the Chambers of Commerce in building the sustainability knowledge they require on their journey towards net zero, with 44% highlighting the value of engaging and utilising the services of the Chamber network. The survey also highlights the need for senior leadership in achieving net zero. This is shown by the fact that 74% of respondents stated that within their organisation, board or senior management were responsible for setting the organisations strategy on sustainability and net zero.

Indeed, the data from the SBS post-event survey reinforces the additional support local businesses would like to see from Government in order to accelerate their drive towards environmental sustainability with two thirds of respondents referencing the importance of financial assistance from national bodies in order to reach these ambitious goals.

Chapter 3: What does this mean?

Carbon Footprint

The trends outlined in chapter 2 shows a significant step forward from businesses across the region. The number of businesses who are implementing measures continues to increase, building upon the results of last year. It is extremely encouraging to see progress in shifting towards this greener future. By taking into account the level of carbon they output, businesses are not only helping create a greener future, but they are also positioning themselves significantly better to take advantage of the economic opportunities that lie ahead and compliment the ambitious net zero targets set out by the likes of Birmingham City Council, the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and UK Government. Furthermore, insight from McKinsey and Company reveals the inherent advantages that can be unlocked by businesses committed to reducing their carbon footprint and increasing their competitiveness – between a quarter to a third of the potential UK climate change mitigation investments by businesses in the 2021-2030 are likely to have a positive net-present value (NPV).

Similar points are noted in the UK's Net Zero Strategy where it is stated that delivering net zero allows the UK to boost living standards by supporting jobs and attracting investment in the green industries of the future¹. Additionally, in the West Midlands Combined Authority's 5 year plan, it is outlined that 21,000 new jobs could be created by 2026 and in the longer term, an additional 71,000 jobs could be created by 2041². There is clear value identified across the nation and the region, stating the economic benefits of the transition to net zero are significant. As such, the commitment being shown by Greater Birmingham businesses in lowering their carbon footprint is valuable in positioning the region to take advantage of the transition to net zero.

Energy

The above data has made exceptionally clear the challenges that businesses across Greater Birmingham are encountering on a daily basis. Energy costs are spiralling for many firms across the region, despite the intervention of Government and the innovative measures a number of businesses have implemented, as outlined in Chapter 2. Businesses remain concerned about the future and this period of huge economic uncertainty. With the Energy Bill Relief Scheme ending in the spring, and the replacement scheme being much less generous, it is essential that the Government recognises the importance of supporting energy efficiency measures and installing the appropriate infrastructure to create national energy security, which will protect both citizens and businesses from energy price shocks.

It is pivotal that businesses continue to ensure they adopt the necessary energy efficiency measures required to keep their operating costs down. As highlighted by the International Energy Agency (IEA), energy efficiency improvements can have hugely positive macroeconomic impacts and boost economic activity, often leading to increased employment³. The benefits of energy efficiency measures are huge and businesses should look to adopt them wherever possible. Indeed, energy is considered by the WMCA as being pivotal in the region's future and in achieving a net zero carbon economy by 2041. The WMCA's Regional Energy Strategy, driven by the energy capital is looking to assist in the

¹ UK Government, Net Zero Strategy, found here: [net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92506/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf). Accessed on 30th September.

² West Midlands Combined Authority, 5 Year Plan, found here: [A big opportunity for the region \(wmca.org.uk\)](https://www.wmca.org.uk/publications/5-year-plan). Accessed on 10th January.

³ IEA, Multiple benefits of energy efficiency, found here: [Economic benefits – Multiple Benefits of Energy Efficiency – Analysis - IEA](https://www.iea.org/publications/energy-efficiency-analysis). Accessed on 30th November.

delivery of £15bn of investment in local energy projects including scaling up the retrofit market, providing local authorities with support to address the challenges of fuel poverty and ensuring energy infrastructure is available to support the transition to zero emission vehicles and buildings. This would see significant economic benefits through the creation of jobs and the development of key sectors but would also prove to be of significant value in ensuring the region remains on track to achieve its net zero targets. The value of installing the necessary infrastructure to produce green energy cannot be understated and is noted in Chris Skidmore's Net Zero Review as being an area that the government must focus on, as infrastructure is considered to be the key that will unlock net zero- the UK must be able to rapidly build and adapt the infrastructure for electricity, hydrogen, other sources of green energy to support the Nations green economy⁴.

Climate Risk

The above data shows the significant need to increase awareness around the risks associated with climate change. A significant portion of organisations had not taken steps to increase their resilience against climate change. It is vital that businesses understand the potential impact of climate change on their organisation. As highlighted by McKinsey and Company, the effects of a changing climate are often large and unpredictable. Governments, businesses, and other organizations will have to address the crisis in different and collaborative ways⁵. Indeed, the United Nations similarly have recognised the potential devastating impact of climate change on infrastructure. The loss and damage fund, announced at COP 27, was hugely significant as it supported developing countries in losses arising from adverse climate conditions such as heatwaves and flooding.

Businesses recognise that they are not immune to the impact of climate change. Drastic changes in climate will have a significant impact on their operations. This can already be seen in this year's heatwave where temperatures reached upwards of 36°C, which saw businesses encourage employees to work from home as the conditions made it hazardous to commute to work. Preparing for the continuously worsening climate conditions should be a priority for businesses as their operations will be impacted, as 2022 has already shown the region.

Barriers to achieving net zero

There are significant barriers in achieving net zero which have been highlighted in the data above. The costs associated with net zero are a huge challenge. However, achieving net zero provides businesses with a significant competitive advantage enabling them to take advantage of the transition to net zero. The net zero targets established by the Council are fast approaching and in order to achieve them businesses must understand that whilst there are huge costs, the future of their organisation will be dictated by how they ensure they can prove to their customers that they are buying services from an organisation who will not damage their own net zero commitments. Despite these points, a report from the World Economic Forum highlights that the costs of deep decarbonization across supply chains are surprisingly low and result in an increase of only 1-4% on end-consumer prices. As such the costs of reducing a business's environmental impact can be limited. Furthermore, the report

⁴ Chris Skidmore, Net Zero Review, found here: [MISSION ZERO - Independent Review of Net Zero \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#). Accessed on 29th March.

⁵ McKinsey and Company, Confronting Climate Risk, found here: [How business leaders should confront climate risk | McKinsey](#). Accessed on 30th November.

highlights how 50% of consumers are willing to pay more for sustainable products⁶. As such, it is vital to work with your suppliers as the costs can be limited and made more affordable. Similarly, knowledge and understanding of achieving net zero remains a key barrier facing business. Taking advantage of support that is out there, is vital. The Chambers has developed multiple initiatives including the Sustainable Business Series which allowed businesses to share best practise and insight as to how best to achieve net zero. The webinars can be found online, see Chapter 5 for more information.

⁶ World Economic Forum, Net Zero Challenge, found here: [WEF Net Zero Challenge The Supply Chain Opportunity 2021.pdf \(weforum.org\)](#). Accessed on 30th November.

Chapter 4: Case Studies

Shakespeare Martineau

On a journey to achieve B-Corporation status, life and business law firm, Shakespeare Martineau is committed to doing business for good by reducing its impact on the environment, supporting local communities and providing an open, supportive, inclusive environment that ensures everyone can be their authentic selves.

B-Corporations are legally required to consider the impact of business decisions on their people, customers, suppliers, communities and the environment, ensuring a balance between purpose, people and profit. Shakespeare Martineau is part of the B Corporation Midlands group – where businesses join forces to share best practice and ideas.

In a bid to become net zero, almost all of Shakespeare Martineau's office hubs use renewable energy and the firm will soon be utilising carbon offsetting initiatives to mitigate its carbon footprint since 2019.

Supporting clients, and demonstrating a true commitment to sustainability, the firm has produced a series of data rich, informative white papers about adopting [community energy](#) schemes, [green homes](#) and becoming a [green campus](#) in the education sector.

As part of the company's office refit schedule, 80% of the furniture used in the refurbishments contributes to the circular economy and 75% of its office stationery and office supplies are sustainably sourced or recyclable.

Team members are also supporting efforts by offering pro bono services and taking part in various volunteering activities such as helping to restore local environments with the Canals and River Trust, litter picking in local areas and gleaning surplus vegetables.

But in order to ensure major behaviour change both inside the organisation, responsible business champions and a net zero committee are driving internal and external initiatives and keeping the board accountable for meeting targets and making a positive change.

Aston University

The Energy & Bioproducts Research Institute (EBRI) at Aston University provides practical solutions for businesses to explore the growing bioenergy, Energy-from-Waste (EfW) and bioproduct markets, and the opportunities they offer. Missfit Creations was the first clothing business to take part in an EBRI Master Class. The Master Class, offered through EBRI's European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme, was devised to help West Midlands businesses address their sustainability, waste and energy goals, and to help them develop low carbon products and services.

Missfit Creations was created with the core aim of restoring and reworking vintage clothing. The drive of the business is the reduction of the environmental impact of textiles, along with raising awareness for garment waste and encouraging the practice of re-use and repair. Missfit Creations' sustainable ethic has enabled the development of a range of recycled and upcycled clothing. Many items are reworked into new designs, with many garments incorporating fabrics from an ample stock collected since the 1980s. The 'Mending Cafe' is another offering of Missfit Creations, introduced to encourage and teach consumers how to mend garments, instead of discarding them. The free workshop enables skill sharing and promotes re-use and repair. The biggest challenge for Missfit Creations, was the stigma behind using or wearing second-hand clothing. And as clothing is vintage, creating garments in line with current fashion trends can be difficult, therefore resulting in some items being difficult to sell. There are several platforms on the market today selling second-hand clothing, however these marketplaces are predominantly selling 'new' clothing, not vintage. This is where Missfit Creations is unique in its offering, repairing and restoring vintage clothing, reworking items into new designs, to increase the lifecycle of clothes in circulation, and most importantly working.

EBRI's team of scientists offered to help Debbie calculate the carbon emissions saved through her upcycling clothes business and produced a tailored report summarising its findings and recommendations. EBRI's tailored report has enabled Missfit Creations to quantify its carbon saving practices. Missfit Creations are keen to adopt the recommendations suggested in the report, particularly introducing a take-back scheme, along with reducing the use of electrical appliances in the business.

University of Birmingham

The University of Birmingham's [Keeping 1.5°C Alive report](#) shines a light on how research at the University is powering climate action in the hope of keeping within the Paris Agreement limit of 1.5°C or below of global warming.

The report explores the role of the University itself as a change agent a 'living lab' for testing and trialling innovation, in association with industry partners Siemens, and an educator of future generations of climate-smart citizens. Each chapter features a series of policy takeaways and recommendations for decision makers locally, regionally and nationally, as well as businesses.

To support the University's goals of achieving net zero carbon for scope one and two by 2035, and overall by 2045 the [Birmingham Institute for Sustainability and Climate Action](#), (BISCA) has been established. Leveraging interdisciplinary research expertise, BISCA will move beyond evidence generation and technological solutions to consider recommendations for dynamic policies and decision-making that drives change.

The Centre for Responsible Business is helping to produce a new generation of business experts who are climate literate and understand the realities and complexities of emissions accounting. Whilst a new Net Zero Together Skills Bootcamp offers businesses the chance to nominate a Sustainability Champion in their firm for a 10-week fully funded programme of learning for businesses beginning their net zero transition.

From developing low carbon innovations like hydrogen-powered trains and battery performance software, to modelling and projecting air quality, forests and hydrological water cycle responses under climate change, the University is taking world class academic work into the real-world to help policymakers and business leaders make informed decisions now for a better future tomorrow.

Support and advice is provided by the University to SMEs in the West Midlands through a programme of European Regional Development Fund schemes. Through the Climate Innovation Platform and ATETA programmes based at Tyseley Energy Park the Birmingham Energy Institute offers tailored support to drive the commercialisation of innovative energy products and services. Find out more: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/partners/sme-support/business-support-programmes/index.aspx>

Learn more about The University of Birmingham's commitment to achieving sustainability in the [Birmingham 2030 Strategy](#).

Chapter 5: How are the Chambers supporting businesses

The Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce has developed the Sustainable Business Series to support businesses in their transition to net zero. The Sustainable Business Series shares best practice, guidance and knowledge to help businesses progress to net zero. The Series covered what net zero means for SMEs and how to progress to net zero. The content was delivered through a series of webinars, blogs and podcasts, utilising the Chamber network's expertise on low-carbon issue and culminated in the Sustainable Business Series Conference. The podcasts and webinars can be found on the GBCC YouTube channel, [here](#).

The Chamber has also developed a range of support options looking to facilitate organisations in their transition to net zero. The Low carbon support grid highlights many of the support options available to businesses to reduce their impact on their environment. The Chamber is also developing the Net Zero Network. This network looks to connect organisations allowing them to share insight and best practise in achieving net zero. Furthermore, the Chamber is exploring how businesses are tackling environmental and social governance, and the benefits of doing so, through the Good Business Forum.

The Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce supports businesses in:

- Growing their profile and finding customers and partners locally, whilst also assisting them in trading and building connections internationally.
- Keeping informed about local business opportunities, news and trends.
- Developing their workforces and future leaders.
- Enabling businesses to be heard by representing their interests locally and nationally.



Greater Birmingham
Chambers
of Commerce

For more information, please contact:

Kuran Singh
Policy Advisor
Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce
k.singh@birmingham-chamber.com



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

#SHAKESPEAREMARTINEAU

Connect. Support. Grow.