

Sector Guide: Retail



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Consumers are increasingly aware of the environmental impacts of their choices and these are affecting the decisions they make. Reducing your business' environmental impacts can reduce costs, increase margins and feed into your marketing.

Cutting 20% off your energy costs can improve your profits as much as a 5% increase in sales while also reducing your carbon footprint - as can reducing your waste and recycling or reusing everything you can.

Lighting

LED lighting offers an instant energy saving, and it also gives off less heat than conventional lighting, thereby reducing the need for cooling, while longer lasting bulbs mean less maintenance. Occupancy sensors can reduce consumption of electricity in less frequently used areas such as storage rooms, toilets and corridors.

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning

A welcoming and comfortable environment is crucial for any retailer. However, simple energy saving steps have saved some retailers over 30% off their heating costs.

Save energy by balancing the internal temperature to the outside conditions, and setting controls to match the requirements through the day. Ensure the heating is off when the building is unoccupied and that a dead band of 3°C is set between heating and air conditioning to make sure they are not both running simultaneously.

If you have an open door policy consider installing automatic doors or a lobby area to reduce heat loss or heat pump air curtains as an efficient heating method. Utilising natural ventilation can provide free cooling, and 'night cooling' with ventilation fans can delay the need for air conditioning the following day. Heat reflective glass and awnings over large display windows can reduce unwanted heat gain.

Refrigeration

Regular maintenance will save energy costs; defrosting, checking seals, and cleaning condensers. Maintaining the optimal temperature without over-cooling, and not over filling shelves will also save energy.

Insulating covers, sliding doors, night blinds and aerofoil technology will help reduce the loss of chilled air and LED lighting within the cabinets create less heat.

Waste Management

UK retailers face a wide range of legal duties regarding waste, for example; the Packaging Waste Obligations require retailers to pay towards the recycling of packaging, and supermarkets are under pressure to reduce food waste.

Cardboard and plastic make up approximately 70% of the waste from a typical retail unit. This waste is space consuming in small storage areas and presents health and safety issues. Separating recyclables, compacting and baling reduces the volume and facilitates easy transportation.

Correctly sorted waste can also increase the amount that gets recycled, and help towards your business' longterm sustainability goals, so speak to your waste collector to understand how to work with them.



For further support and details of any opportunities for grant funding please contact a Carbon Charter advisor.

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Further Information

Energy Management – the New Profit Centre for Retail Businesses

<https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/guides/sector-based-advice/retail-and-distribution/>

Waste Management for Westminster's Retail Sector

<https://cleanstreets.westminster.gov.uk/retail-waste-management-westminster/>

Lets Recycle – Retail

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/retail/>



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