

# Tips to support local businesses in their sustainability journey



This fact sheet will provide you with ideas on how you can help and support local businesses in their sustainability journey as a means to make a positive contribution to emissions reductions.

## Inform your suppliers about your sustainability commitment

### Do your suppliers know you have a green supplier policy?



The easiest way to identify local businesses that you can support in their sustainability journey is to start with your list of suppliers. Make sure you tell your suppliers about your certification and how you prioritise suppliers that commit to reducing emissions. If they know sustainability is important in your decision-making process:

- they may be proud to share their green initiatives with you, and you may find interesting facts to add to your business sustainability story;
- it may be a trigger for them to improve their operations and start their own green journey.

**Tip** You could mention your sustainability commitment or achievements on purchase orders or brief documents, and include contact details for suppliers to receive more information or help. E.g. *"We are an ECO certified operator with a green supplier policy. Last year, we achieved..... We'd be happy to hear about your sustainability goals and share our experience to help other businesses where relevant. We'd also love to hear from you if you think there's something we could do better!"*

## Offer your help and feedback to improve your suppliers' sustainability

### If you cannot find information about your suppliers' sustainability or notice things they could improve, let them know!



It is good practice to audit your suppliers' sustainability and establish a list of preferred suppliers. To do so, you may look for their environmental policies and credentials. If you cannot find the information online, don't stop there. You may contact them to:

- let them know the information isn't available or easy to find on their website
- ask what they have in place or what they plan to do
- offer your help, share resources and tips

**Tip** Here's a template you can use to find more information about your suppliers' sustainability: *"As part of our commitment to being as eco-friendly as possible, we recently conducted an audit of our suppliers. We did not find information about your environmental plan or commitment on your website, so I am wondering if you have something in place that we should note in our database? If you are still working on your environmental plan, please let us know if we can help. We are an ECO certified operator and we'll be happy to share some recommendations and tips to help you start your sustainability journey. We'd also love to hear from you if you think there's something we could do better!"*

## Talk about sustainability and share your story with other businesses

Your story about your sustainability journey and how you reached your goals to minimise your negative impacts and maximise the positive ones can inspire and help other businesses. To share information, tips and resources with local suppliers, you could have, for example, a dedicated page on your website. You could also be part of a social networking group, write an article for a local magazine or present at a workshop.