

Sustainability is Possible Guide



What is sustainable business?

Sustainable businesses are prepared for the future because they:

- Create long-term financial viability.
- Understand how their actions affect the natural environment and work towards reducing these impacts.
- Value their ties to others – for example, employees and community – and contribute to positive social change.

How can sustainability benefit your business?

Business sustainability can create a more resilient business, ensuring you are better able to adapt to change.

Sustainability can have financial, environmental and social benefits that strengthen business. Benefits include saving money, managing business risks and maintaining stronger relationships with employees, customers, the local community and other businesses.

Where can you start?

From micro to large, each business can reinforce their position as a responsible member of the business community. You don't need to achieve all-the-things right away! Businesses can take simple, achievable steps to become more sustainable, implementing quick wins or deep changes.

QUICK WINS

Energy

- Let buildings stay slightly warmer in the summer and cooler in the winter, to reduce energy use – and bills. Using LED lights will also reduce energy use.

Waste & Pollution

- Implement a recycling program to reduce waste and disposal costs.
- Join the [CHCC Compost Revolution](#).
- As NSW moves to cut single-use plastics by 2025 – get prepared with [Bye Bye Plastic](#).
- For hospitality businesses, cutting food waste can be the best way to save money and boost business profits. Head to [MidWaste](#) and learn more about their free food waste program Your Business Is Food.

DEEP CHANGES

Energy

- Evaluate your usage. Energy costs can be a major strain on your bottom line. Get to know what's using the most energy. Head to the [Energy Saver NSW](#) website and discover how to manage and monitor your electricity and gas usage.
- Learn how the [NSW Government](#) can guide your business towards a clean energy future.

Waste & Pollution

- Take a deeper assessment of your business via the [business.gov.au](#) website, and learn [how to make your business more environmentally friendly](#).

QUICK WINS

Community

- Inform community members in advance about changes that will affect them. They'll be more supportive – and may even contribute good ideas. This can be done via social media, newsletters or in-person.

Employees & Supply Chains

- Engaging employees to create a sustainable business – involve everyone in day-to-day sustainability efforts. Make staff members the champions of various sustainable initiatives.

DEEP CHANGES

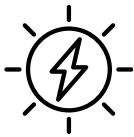
Community

- Work with the community on a project of mutual interest, to develop solutions that benefit your business and the community: eg. on-the-job training for students. Visit [Network for Business Sustainability](#) for resources on stakeholder engagement.

Employees & Supply Chains

- Develop an ethical sourcing policy to ensure inputs are produced responsibly and support the local economy. This effort can draw new customers and strengthen relationships with suppliers. Visit [Network for Business Sustainability](#) for resources on supply chains.

Where to find more information



[Business.gov.au](#) – find out how to reduce the amount of energy and water your business uses, and improve your waste management.

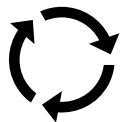
[Energy Saver NSW](#) – information on energy management, as well as access to offers that will help you upgrade your equipment at a lower cost.



[Bye Bye Plastic](#) – the time has come to say bye-bye to single use plastics. Get ready!

[MidWaste](#) – providing information, advice and resources to reduce the amount of food you throw away in your business.

[War on Waste Toolkit for Business](#) – essential tips and tools that can get your business reducing waste, saving money and improving staff morale.



[NSW Renewable Energy Investment](#) – the clean energy sector in NSW is thriving and our state enjoys many competitive advantages over other areas in building a clean energy future. How can your business be involved?

[Sustainability Advantage NSW](#) – sustainability advice for NSW medium to large businesses.



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