

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability and climate change remain amongst the most important concerns both for businesses and governments around the world. Many companies are increasingly paying close attention to their corporate social responsibility in their efforts to become greener and create positive change within society. Businesses in the energy, extractive, construction and transportation industries are the most likely to find themselves exposed to potential regulatory and natural resource constraints. The UK is hosting the COP26 annual conference in November 2021. It will present a ten-point plan for a greener economy to increase awareness of climate change and help reach targets to reduce carbon emissions by 68% by 2030. It is predicted that these actions will create 250,000 jobs. Additionally, the government are now taking steps towards net-zero with the ending of the sales of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030.

Your challenges:

8% of companies reported to having pressure from clients to become demonstrably greener. This indicates more and more that companies are paying attention to becoming greener, and many are finding ways to achieve this through research and collaboration.

7% of companies reported concerns identifying more sustainable materials to use for packaging in efforts to reduce plastic use. Government initiatives such as the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance and the Global Plastics Action Partnership will help companies understand ways to reduce plastic and to help make the environment more sustainable.

What the Chamber will deliver in 2021:

- Deliver 'sustainability' policy roundtables with companies and industry experts on the challenges of climate change and how organisations can become greener and more sustainable.
- Deliver the Business Energy and Efficiency Programme (BEEP) which can provide free support to identify cost saving opportunities and grant funding of up to £20,000 and 40% of project costs to allow these savings happen.
- Work with partner organisations to promote other grants schemes available.
- Challenge our own costs and activities towards a more sustainable business.
- Promote more case studies of best practice, so businesses can see the practical steps they can take to contribute to this agenda.

Last year the national Chamber network successfully worked with other business groups to release a report; 'A Just Transition to Net Zero', on how to reach their goal of a net-zero UK by 2050.

BUSINESS CASE STUDY:



The Covid-19 pandemic helped the management team at FZUK accelerate plans to implement the change to “net zero”. In under twelve months we installed 9 EV chargers and the Board of Directors, Commercial team and three other employees converted to electric cars and are now all fully operational. Once the leases have expired, the rest of the fleet will be replaced by EV, including technicians vans. FZUK also paid for the home chargers and have a fully EV Mini for all other employees to use at the weekend or in the week to “experience” EV and encourage them to make the move from diesel or petrol.

ISO 14001 accreditation was secured with zero non-conformances in the year and the Redditch facility has now implemented low energy LED lighting, a fully integrated recycling management programme and a paperless office. The biggest move however is in the company’s product offering. During the year we accelerated our plan to move away from diesel propulsion vehicles to fully electric and Hydrogen Fuel Cells for both the Collection Vehicles and mechanical Road Sweepers, including a zero-emission sweeper body. The Refuse Body and lifting devices are also fully electric, moving away from the very inefficient hydraulic systems.

Simon Hyde
Chief Executive Officer
FAUN Zoeller (UK) Limited



BUSINESS CASE STUDY:

At Worcester Bosch we believe that a social and ecological balance is needed to achieve business success whilst preserving resources for current and future generations.

We are leading the UK in developing products that meet the energy challenge by being part of the first trial of Hydrogen ready boilers.

Great efforts are also made in our factory to reduce our environmental impact. We introduced water recycling which saved twelve metric tons of CO2 and 71 million litres of water annually. We replaced the air handling unit in our factory, giving us a carbon saving equivalent to driving a diesel car over 1.8 million kilometres.

Our team members also care about the community regularly giving days volunteering at local charities and over the last 6 years we have raised over £100,000 to local and national charities.”

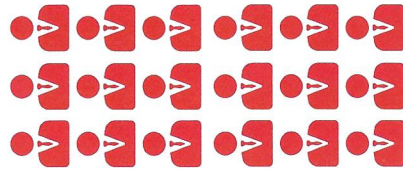
Carl Arntzen
Managing Director
Worcester Bosch

Our Policy Commitment:

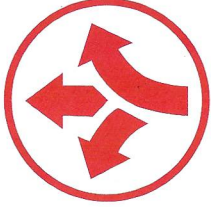
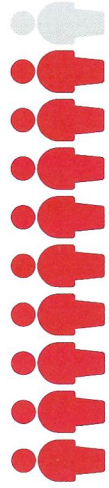
Lobby government to involve businesses in the decision-making processes and targets associated with climate change to ensure solutions to push this agenda forward are innovative and impactful as well as realistic and practical.

HEREFORDSHIRE BUSINESS STATISTICS

More new businesses were established in Herefordshire during **2020** than in any previous year: **2,327** new companies were registered compared to 1,499 during 2019, an **increase of 55.2%**

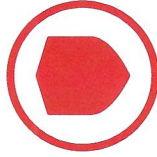


90% of businesses employ less than **10** people

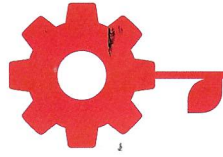


The **Stronger Towns Bid** for Herefordshire aims to improve three areas for the county which include **connectivity**, **urban regeneration**, **skills and enterprise**.

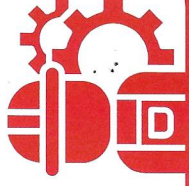
Midlands Cyber is a government backed initiative, supported by the Midlands Engine and Department of International Trade, showcasing the region for its **pedigree in Cyber Security**.



The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership were awarded a **£5.43 million Growth Deal investment** for the Hereford Enterprise Zone at Skylon Park. The funding will support infrastructure works and create **500 new jobs**



NMITE, New Model Institute for Technology and Engineering officially will open in **September 2021** and will accept applications for its cohort very soon.



The **Marches Local Enterprise Partnership** were awarded **£3 million** of funding from the **Getting Building Fund** in August 2020 to make improvements to Hereford City Centre