

7 Key takeaways from Oh Yes! Net Zero members

What have we learned this year?

1 The importance of a carbon reduction plan

A carbon reduction plan gives you a starting point and helps you measure where you are now compared to your position last year and the year before. It also gives you a goal to aim at and helps you plan next steps.

2 Reporting your progress can energise your employees

As Bio-D found, many of the best ideas come from employees. If you report on your carbon reduction actions – either publicly or via staff meetings or newsletters – colleagues feel empowered and involved.

3 Collaboration is key to reducing emissions

Scope 3 emissions are tricky for companies to control and measure. But working together with suppliers on carbon reduction projects gives you a head start, as Carbon Clinic participants like Smith+Nephew and Vic Coupland are finding.

4 Sharing information saves time and builds local supply chains

Oh Yes! Net Zero members have been able to work together and keep their spending in the Humber region by sharing their experiences and recommending suppliers.

5 Reducing emissions can make it easier to win certain contracts

The NHS's challenging Net Zero targets mean that companies without a carbon reduction plan and measurable reporting soon won't be eligible to bid for their work.

6 Start with what you can control

The challenge of carbon reduction can seem overwhelming and expensive. But you don't have to replace all your lightbulbs and install solar panels right away. There are smaller changes you can make – recycling, getting rid of disposable cups and cutlery, putting in bike racks for staff, implementing a cycle to work scheme – that can be easy wins to start with.

7 Empower young people

The younger generation is the one that's going to have to live with climate change. Many are anxious and want to do something about it. By giving them agency through programmes like Climate Changemakers, their energy and ideas can be harnessed for the benefit of us all.

