

Saving Energy: Advice and Resources for Construction Firms

The main impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on the construction sector has been a significant impact on the cost of gas, electricity and fuel for construction firms. Whilst the Government has introduced the Energy Business Relief Scheme (EBRS), many firms are still faced with significantly increased energy costs. It is also uncertain when energy prices will fall, and these are predicted to remain high during 2023-24.

The most effective way for firms in the construction sector to manage these costs, and their longer-term exposure to higher energy prices, is through reducing their energy consumption. To assist firms in the sector to do this, the Construction Leadership Council has worked with firms and trade associations in the sector to identify sources of advice, case studies and other resources that may be of use to individual firms seeking to reduce their energy use.

Reducing energy consumption

Energy Saving Trust

The [Energy Saving Trust](#) provides advice to firms on how to make their premises more energy efficient, improve the efficiency of supply chains, increase the efficiency of their vehicles and support staff to use alternative forms of transport. Its website includes a range of resources and case studies, including a guide to [energy efficiency in the workplace](#). The EST also runs training courses, conferences and other events that are open to businesses.

The Carbon Trust

The [Carbon Trust](#) works with businesses and governments to reduce their carbon emissions, including through reducing energy use. It provides a range of guides, case studies, reports and other information for firms. It has also published energy saving tools for SMEs, energy management and

benchmarking toolkits, and a business case tool for fleet and lighting upgrades.

British Standards Institution

The BS ISO 50005 standard provides SMEs with a means to develop a practical, low cost-approach to energy management to reduce their energy consumption, energy bills and carbon footprint while allowing for SMEs to implement the standard through a phased/staged approach to implementation. SMEs can download a free copy at [Energy Management Standards](#).

Business Climate Hub

The [Business Climate Hub](#) provides a one-stop-shop for SMEs to join the Race to Zero, and find practical advice on how to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions, including sector-specific guidance for six pilot sectors: agriculture, **construction**, hospitality, retail, **manufacturing** and technology firms. This also provides toolkits and other resources for SMEs through the [SME Climate Hub](#).

Federation of Master Builders

The [Federation of Master Builders \(FMB\)](#) provides information on steps that small construction businesses can take to improve energy efficiency and reduce their bills, through reducing energy consumption from tools, heating and lighting.

Small Business

The [Small Business](#) website provides a range of information relating to energy efficiency and forms of support available for small business owners, including start-ups.

Construction Products Association

[The Construction Products Association](#) website provides a series of case studies of the actions construction product manufacturers have taken to reduce carbon emissions, including through minimising their energy consumption and the waste they produce.

Advice on energy bills and support schemes

Ofgem

The UK's energy markets regulator, [Ofgem](#) provides information on energy supply contracts, the options for firms struggling to pay energy bills, grant schemes for small business energy efficiency, and advice on lower carbon emissions and become more efficient with commercial energy use. These can be found on its website at [Advice for businesses](#).

Many individual gas and electricity supplier websites also provide information on understanding business energy type, contracts, charges and energy efficiency tips.

Citizens Advice

The [Citizens Advice – Small Businesses](#) service offers free, independent advice about business energy contracts and rights. This includes advice when difficulties in paying energy bills.