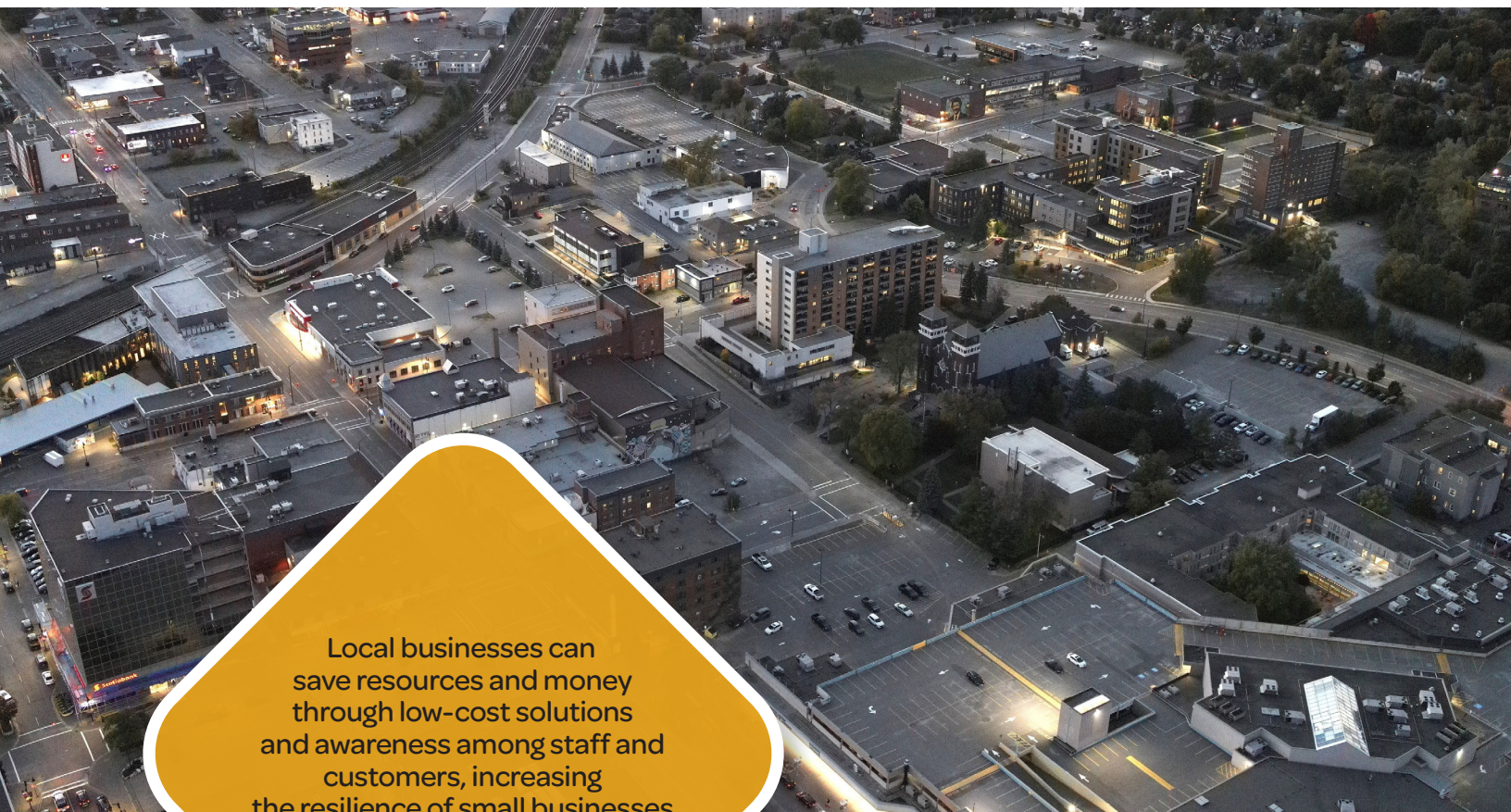


Climate-Ready Small Business Guide

Fall | Winter



Local businesses can save resources and money through low-cost solutions and awareness among staff and customers, increasing the resilience of small businesses in a changing climate.

EarthCare
Terre à cœur
SUDBURY

Greater | Grand
Sudbury

greatersudbury.ca/earthcare



Responsible Winter Maintenance

Is your business winter-ready?

1. Prevent ice from forming. Shovel snow as it accumulates, fix leaky or clogged eavestroughs and keep storm drains clear. Redirect downspouts away from walkways and parking lots, locate your snow pile on the lower section of the property near a storm drain, and close any unnecessary overflow parking, stairs, walkways or outdoor seating areas. This reduces the need for deicers.
2. Use traction aids such as sand and gravel rather than salt. You can also look for salt-free deicers that do not contain any chlorides or you can use acetate-based products. This keeps harmful chemicals out of local bodies of water while preventing slips and falls in any temperature.
3. Properly apply salt. Salt only melts ice in temperatures warmer than -12 degrees Celsius. Store salt in a water-resistant closed container and clean up spilled and excess applied salt to save for another time. Use the City's salt measuring cup to avoid overapplying! You can pick one up at your local library or request one by emailing lakes@greatersudbury.ca.
4. Hold your winter maintenance contractors accountable. Require a salt management plan, ensure payment is based on the number of snowfall events or per season and not tied to salt usage, or hire a contractor that is [Smart About Salt certified](#) (SAS). If you are a winter maintenance contractor, contact lakes@greatersudbury.ca to inquire about a voucher for SAS training!

For more information visit, greatersudbury.ca/salt-use/



Did you know?

Less is more! 12 ounces is enough salt to melt the ice on 10 sidewalk squares. Measure with the City's salt cup!



Energy-Efficient Upgrades

Take advantage of incentives for upgrades to reduce energy costs and consumption in the colder months!

1. Turn off lights and equipment when they are not in use and unplug them whenever possible or use advanced power bars. This can reduce phantom or standby power, which is power drawn from turned-off equipment such as computers.
2. The City of Greater Sudbury's [Façade Improvement Grant Program](#) may be used to achieve greater energy efficiency of buildings, for example, through upgraded windows or lighting. This program provides incentives to property owners and tenants located within Schedule A of the [Greater Sudbury Community Improvement Plan](#). Applicants are encouraged to apply to the Professional Study Grant program to help offset any costs associated with energy audits.
3. Contact Greater Sudbury Hydro and Enbridge Gas for assistance in identifying energy-saving opportunities and incentives.
 - a. Connect with an expert at Greater Sudbury Hydro for guidance on how to [Save Energy For Small Businesses](#).
 - b. Contact an [Energy Solutions Advisor](#) at Enbridge Gas for support best suited to your business.
4. Access incentives and grants for energy-efficient equipment upgrades and reduced energy consumption through the [SAVE ON ENERGY](#) programs. For more information visit www.saveonenergy.ca.
 - a. [Instant Discounts Program](#): Instant, point-of-sale discounts on energy-efficient lighting products.
 - b. [Small Business Program](#): Facilitated upgrades to energy-efficient lighting, refrigeration measures, smart thermostats, and lighting occupancy sensors equipment upgrades at no cost to your business.
 - c. [Retrofit Program](#): Financial incentives for targeted energy-efficiency retrofits, including but not limited to solar photovoltaic systems, computer room air conditioners, HVAC controls and pumps, motors, variable frequency drives, manufacturing equipment, network lighting controls and more.



Did you know?

ENERGY STAR certified LEDs are up to 90 per cent more efficient and last 15 times longer than incandescent bulbs. As the days get darker and lights are used more frequently, lighting upgrades can save you money!



Waste Reduction

What's in Your Waste?

1. There are many other solid waste initiatives that you can participate in which reduce garbage volume and collection costs. Take advantage of recycling programs at a variety of local businesses for computers and electronic waste, appliances, batteries, metals and more. The City's [Waste Wise](#) app can provide maps of local collection sites for these items.
2. Recycling helps reduce the stress on local landfill sites. The [Yellow Box Program](#) provides participating small businesses located on a residential curbside collection route with collection of up to two 360-litre carts every other week (an annual service fee applies). To sign up, fill out the [Yellow Box Recycling Application Form for Businesses](#) and email it to wastemanagement@greatersudbury.ca. For larger quantities, there is no charge for delivery of Blue Box recyclable material at the Recycling Centre Depot located at 1825 Frobisher Street. Open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call 311 to contact the City's Environmental Services Division.
3. Organic waste can be picked up weekly through the Yellow Cart program for participating small businesses located on a residential curbside collection route. To sign up, fill out the [Yellow Cart Form](#) and email it to wastemanagement@greatersudbury.ca. You can also consider on-site composting or vermicomposting.
4. The [Downtown Sudbury Collection Program](#) provides pick-up of Blue Box recyclables, garbage and large furniture, electronics and appliances to registered properties within downtown Sudbury. Garbage collection is paid for by the participant. The recycling collection is paid for by Downtown Sudbury, and the processing is paid for by the City of Greater Sudbury. To register, call WM at 705-566-8447 and purchase your Big Yellow recycling container at the Downtown Sudbury office located at 115 Larch St.



Did you know?

In Ontario, the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) sector makes up 60 per cent of the waste stream and only diverts 17 per cent of their waste from the landfill.



Vehicle Emissions Reductions

Are your business' vehicular emissions costing you?

1. Reduce fuel emissions and save on gas by avoiding unnecessary travel in single-occupancy vehicles. Encourage employees to download the new rideshare program, [Smart Commute](#) and provide incentives for employees to carpool to work.
2. An empty idling vehicle causes a smelly and unhealthy environment for customers and creates additional emissions. Request a free Idle-Free Zone sign to display at your business from the City of Greater Sudbury by emailing earthcare@greatersudbury.ca. Call 311 for more information on idling bylaws.
3. Educate fleet drivers about fuel-efficient driving through responsible driving education programs like [SmartDriver](#), [ecoDriving](#), or [AutoSmart](#). Adopting simple techniques can reduce a vehicle's fuel consumption and emissions by 25 per cent, saving \$500 in fuel each year. Find more information on fuel-efficient vehicles and driving behaviours from [Natural Resources Canada](#).
4. Consider replacing end-of-life vehicles in your fleet with hybrid or electric vehicles. The Government of Canada's [Electric Vehicle Affordability Program \(EVAP\)](#) offers incentives to businesses for battery-electric, fuel-cell electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.



Did you know?

More than 10 Park-and-Ride locations are available for carpoolers in the community. Contact EarthCare Sudbury to get your free dashboard parking pass!



Sustainable Transportation

Promote the use of public transportation.

1. Encourage employees to take public transportation to work by providing information about scheduling and transit access, and providing incentives such as subsidized transit passes and an emergency ride home program.
2. Provide transit suggestions to customers whenever possible, and keep the sidewalk and outside area clear, accessible and welcoming. Offer information on routes to and from your business; information for [GOVA Routes and Schedules](#) can be found on the City's website.
3. For-profit organizations planning to host a community event can apply for the Ride the Bus for a Loonie Program. Passengers travelling to and from an eligible community event on conventional GOVA bus routes will pay \$1 each way. To submit an application, please complete the [Ride the Bus for a Loonie request form](#). For more information, please contact 311 or 311@greatersudbury.ca.
4. GOVA Transit Charter Services is available for any corporate, community or school board event. To request this service, please complete the [Bus Charter Request Form](#).



Did you know?

GOVA Transit has added 11,000 hours of transit service in the last two years with over 6 million rides being recorded in 2024.



Local Food and Limiting Food Waste

Can your business support the local food system?

1. When you have a business meeting or event, source local and seasonal food options. Many local caterers, restaurants and grocery stores support and provide local options. Visit [EarthCare Sudbury's webpage](#) for more information on local food.
2. Donate surplus food to those in need through a food rescue service like [Second Harvest](#), instead of having it go to waste. Learn more about their [Food Rescue App](#) and join other Greater Sudbury businesses by registering as a donor!
3. Sell surplus food at reduced prices to consumers through [Too Good To Go](#) and [Flashfood](#). Profit off unsold food while attracting customers and reducing waste.
4. Collect donations for food banks or meal programs to help provide healthy food options for those in need.



Did you know?

In Canada, 46.5 per cent of our food goes to waste every year.



Water Conservation

Is your business doing what it can to conserve and protect our water?

1. Regularly check for leaks. A leaky tap or toilet at one drip per second wastes over 900 litres of water per month. A standard toilet will account for, on average, roughly 20 to 40 per cent of the total water used in a building. Toilets also happen to be one of the most common places to find leaks.
2. Identify opportunities to reduce water use within your business by upgrading indoor fixtures:
 - a. Install low-flow toilets and faucets
 - b. Use high-efficiency pre-rinse spray valves
 - c. Add faucet aerators
 - d. Retrofit and maintain older fixtures when replacement isn't possible (e.g., install toilet tank banks, maintain low-flow aerators)
 - e. Choose WaterSense-labeled products
3. Prevent water contamination by installing backflow preventers. These devices are required when a property has equipment or systems that create a risk of backflow, such as irrigation systems, boilers, fire sprinklers, commercial kitchens, chemical mixing areas, or any setup that connects potable and non-potable water. Find more information online from The City of Greater Sudbury's [Water and Wastewater Services Division](#).



Did you know?

Over 40 per cent of water consumption in commercial buildings is used in heating and cooling systems. Restrooms and kitchens account for over 30 per cent, while landscaping accounts for 20 per cent.



Community Involvement

How can you give back to your community and support sustainability initiatives?

1. Invest in local organizations working to protect the environment and care for residents most at-risk to extreme weather through monetary donations, volunteering your time or services, or donating goods! Some of the many organizations include: The Sudbury Food Bank, The Go-Give Project, Sudbury Outreach Support (SOS), the Junction Creek Stewardship Committee, Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury and the Sudbury Women's Centre. To find out who else is working towards climate justice in your community, visit the [Charity and Not for Profit Directory](#) from Sudbury.com or the [United Way Centraide North East Ontario Volunteer Resource Centre](#).
2. Consider making donations in lieu of gifts, or sourcing locally made goods, for staff and clients.
3. Participate in or organize a fundraiser dedicated to advancing climate action and equity as a corporate team.



Did you know?

Programming that supports people disproportionately affected by climate change, such as those living on a low income, the unhoused, and those experiencing systemic barriers, is an integral part of the City of Greater Sudbury's Community Climate Change Adaptation Plan.



Climate-Ready Business Strategy

Do you have a strategy to help your business mitigate and adapt to climate change?

1. Consider tracking your business' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Identifying the sources of GHGs provides opportunities to reduce emissions, lower costs, increase employee and customer satisfaction, and invest in the future of your business. The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) has a [step-by-step guide for how to reduce GHG emissions in your business](#).
2. Some organizations, such as [Green Economy Canada](#), support businesses in achieving sustainability targets. Facilitated sustainability initiatives can reduce operating costs, increase the resilience and competitiveness of your business, and create a better environment for employees and customers. Joining a local network of eco-conscious businesses, like [Green Economy North](#), can provide access to 1:1 support and best practice resources for setting sustainability targets and tracking progress. Check out their free introductory workshop series, *Climate Action Boot Camp*.
3. Reconsider your use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The data centres that house AI servers are incredibly energy-intensive, can consume up to 189 million litres of water per day to cool electrical components, and produce electronic waste containing hazardous materials like mercury and lead. One request through ChatGPT consumes 10 times more electricity than a Google search. Try finding other solutions before resorting to AI use.



Did you know?

The average payback period for small and medium-sized enterprises that integrated climate considerations into their business strategy was 15 months.

Climate-Ready Small Business Guide



For links to all the resources in this guide, visit greatersudbury.ca/climate-ready-business