Climate-Ready Small Business Guide

Spring | Summer

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 coeur SUDBURY | Greater | Grand Sudbury

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Local Food and Food Access

Support the local food system this growing season!

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.
2. Collaborate with local producers by selling their products, hosting pop-up markets or becoming a Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) pickup point. Visit EarthCare Sudbury's webpage for more information on local food.
3. When looking for a team building experience, consider supporting gardening education by signing up for a Team Building session with Sudbury Shared Harvest.
4. Help support a nearby Community Garden. Businesses can donate a garden box or supplies. See community garden locations on the City's virtual Food Access Map.

Did you know?

There are more than 40 Community Gardens in Greater Sudbury, which help bring fresh produce to our homes and encourage food literacy, such as growing, preparing and cooking food.

Energy-Efficient Upgrades

Lower bills and operating costs while increasing comfort and productivity in the heat of the Spring and Summer 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 for help identifying energy-saving opportunities and incentives.
   - Connect with an expert at Greater Sudbury Hydro for guidance on how to Save Energy For Small Businesses.
   - Contact an Energy Solutions Advisor at Enbridge 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 saveonenergy.ca.
   - Peak Perks: Small businesses with an eligible smart thermostat can receive a $75 prepaid Mastercard® for reducing energy-use in the summer.
   - Instant Discounts Program: Instant, point-of-sale discounts on energy-efficient lighting products.
   - 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.
   - 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.

Circular Economy

Turn waste into a resource and help Greater Sudbury build a sustainable economic system.

1. Minimize packaging when supplying goods to customers, and opt for reusable, biodegradable, plastic-free and recyclable options. Start a Take it Back Program to ensure materials are reused, recycled or disposed of properly. Explore programs that manage hard-to-recycle items, like those in the Government of Canada's inventory of recycling programs and the Canada Plastic Recyclers Directory.
2. Consider buying gently used or refurbished appliances, equipment and furniture or donating unwanted items. Some donations can earn you charitable donation tax deductions. Environmental Services at the City of Greater Sudbury provides a list of places to Buy, Donate or Sell used items.
3. Prevent waste during renovations. Find local programs that can help, like Habitat for Humanity ReStore, who will send their Salvage Team to dismantle and remove major items from your office at no charge. To take advantage of this deconstruction service, fill out the Book a Salvage form on their website.
4. Be aware of your supply chain and choose suppliers who prioritize sustainable business practices. Look for certifications that demonstrate a commitment to upholding environmental and social standards. Check out resources on how to Build a sustainable supply chain from Business Development Canada's Climate Action Centre.
5. Consider offering repair and refill services for goods you sell.
6. Work together with other local businesses to keep resources in circulation. Consider innovative ways to repurpose or sell waste material.

Did you know?

Customers are willing to pay 9.7 per cent above average price for sustainably produced or sourced goods.

Active Transportation

Increase productivity, health and morale!

1. Increase employee productivity, general health and morale by encouraging active living with bike storage options, lunchtime walking groups and emergency backup transportation.
2. Promote smart commuting by providing incentives for employees to walk, bike, take public transportation or carpool to work. Encourage employees to download the rideshare program, Smart Commute. You can even register your business to receive a private network on the platform, access to the Emergency Ride Home program, site assessments, surveys and more. Contact reThink Green to learn more.
3. Provide transit and bike route 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.

Did you know?

Many local organizations participate in active commuting challenges or celebrate Bike Month in June by participating in the City of Greater Sudbury's Bike to Work Day!

Water Stewardship

Manage stormwater responsibly to mitigate flood risks and keep our lakes healthy.

1. Identify opportunities to improve outdoor water efficiency:
   - Collect rainwater (e.g., with rain barrels)
   - Avoid watering outdoor plants during mid-day to reduce evaporation
   - Use mulch in landscaping to retain soil moisture and reduce water flow
2. All chemicals, additives and products used in and around businesses eventually reach the water. Choose products that are better for our health and the environment like natural, biodegradable cleaning products; properly dispose of hazardous waste; and avoid the use of pesticides, and synthetic fertilizers with phosphorus in landscaping. Visit the City's Environment and Sustainability webpage for more information on Green Gardening and Lawn Care.
3. Minimize the risk of sewer backups on your property by addressing inflow and infiltration (I&I). Regularly maintain grease traps and oil interceptors, and disconnect any rain gutter downspouts, weeping tiles, or sump pit drainage systems that discharge into the sanitary sewer, For more practical tips and guidance, consult the I&I Business Guide to learn how to manage stormwater effectively and prevent excess water from entering the sewer system, helping lower overflow events, energy use, and greenhouse gas emissions from wastewater treatment.
4. Protect your business or organization from flood damage by following the Flood-Resilience Checklist for ICI Properties. It is recommended that you review and update this checklist annually.

Did you know?

Watersheds Canada has a Business Supporter Program, a mutually beneficial partnership that will promote your business while investing in programs like Love Your Lake that has restored native shorelines in Greater Sudbury!

Community Involvement

Build relationships with local businesses, organizations and residents.

1. Support local organizations working to protect the environment and care for residents who are disproportionately impacted by climate change and extreme weather such as heat waves and flooding by volunteering your time, services or resources. Some of the many organizations include Future North, Independent Living Sudbury Manitoulin, Fierté Sudbury Pride, The Elgin Mission, Turtle Pond Wildlife Centre, Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre, and Rainbow Routes Association. 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. Have your business participate in local events supporting sustainability and environmental action such as tree planting, trout releases, litter clean ups, guided walks, and more. Check out EarthCare Sudbury's Environmental Events calendar for ideas!
3. Compete in local environmental competitions such as the Commuter Challenge, where employees are encouraged to use sustainable transportation during a one-week period in June.
4. Pitch in to help protect the natural environment and take care of our community by participating in a shoreline, street or roadside cleanup. There are litter cleanup programs available throughout the year, including the City's Adopt-a-Road Program and Clean Up Blitz.

Did you know?

Environmentally minded community engagement builds your brand presence and enhances your reputation, helping to recruit and retain employees, partners, and customers who value sustainability.

Climate-Ready Business Strategy

Prepare your business for the effects of climate change.

1. Identify and assess the risks climate change poses to your assets and operations through exposure to extreme weather events, power outages, and potential disruptions to supply chains. Many climate risks such as floods, windstorms, lightning and thunderstorms, extreme heat, earthquakes and fires (forest and wildland) are likely or certain to occur in Greater Sudbury on an annual basis. Have plans in place to address these hazards if they occur.
2. Open for Business: A Disaster Protection and Recovery Planning Toolkit for the Small to Mid-Sized Business and Building a Climate Resilient Business Resource Kit can help you create a plan to mitigate climate change risks.
3. Create an Emergency Management Plan to protect your business, employees, and customers during extreme weather events and power outages. The Red Cross Ready Rating Program provides an Emergency Preparedness Checklist for Small Businesses.

Did you know?

Over one-third of Canada's small and medium businesses have already been hurt by extreme weather, facing lost sales, higher costs, and supply chain issues. Preparing early can help avoid future expenses.

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