Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership

CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

TAKING NATURE ACTION WITHIN YOUR ORGANISATION

nature positive

Organisations are central to driving positive change for the natural world.

With half our global GDP moderately or highly dependent on nature, it’s not just crucial for society to protect nature, but it is also an economic and business imperative.

While you might have made headway in your climate commitments, often organisations are further behind on their nature action journey.

This resource will guide you through the beginning stages of understanding and reducing your impact on nature and signpost you to further resources along the way.

There are **five main drivers** of nature loss, all of which businesses can influence. These drivers of loss can be flipped to identify the drivers of change and solutions.

Drivers of loss	Drivers of change
Land use change	Land use restoration
Resource extraction	Resource replenishment
Climate change	Climate change mitigation and adaptation
Pollution	Pollution removal
Invasive species	Invasive species removal

One of the ways that businesses can create positive change is by looking at their buying power to identify what they can influence within these drivers.

Tip: understand that everything in nature is connected, and just one action can help or harm the wider environment.

Why should businesses care about nature?

Dependency of business on nature
When a business directly or indirectly relies on nature, environmental changes can disrupt supply chains, reduce asset value, and threaten operations.

The consequences of business impacts on nature
When business activities trigger negative consequences for the natural world, this can lead to reputational, and sometimes legal, repercussions.

Impacts of nature loss on society
Nature loss will disrupt society which in turn can create market risks and have other negative impacts on business.

The four Rs of nature action

Taking action to protect nature now will help:

- Establish your business as **reputable** and **resilient**.
- Improve **revenue**. Reducing resource use will result in lower operational costs. By showcasing that you are taking nature action, it can also make you more attractive to investors.
- Prepare your business for **reporting regulations**. It will soon be a legal requirement in the UK for large businesses to start reporting on ESG. This will trickle down through the supply chain.

The steps to getting started

Just start!
The best time to get started on nature action is about the same as planting a tree — 10 years ago. Failing that, the second-best time is now! Start simple by reviewing what you are (and aren't) doing on environmental issues.

Explore how and where your organisation is interacting with nature.
Begin by identifying where your organisation relies on and affects nature, throughout your operations and supply chains. Consider both direct and indirect influences.

The steps to getting started

Focus on a few key areas your business can realistically influence.

Start with two or three manageable opportunities within your operations or supply chain.

Decide which of the four Rs are priorities for your business. Making the connection to how your actions will also benefit your business will help implementation and internal buy-in.

Develop a policy or commitment statement highlighting the areas of influence.

The steps to getting started

Questions to help you identify realistic areas that your business can influence.

- What food does your organisation buy and where from?
- What are the certifications of the products your organisation buys?
- Where does the material of your products come from?
- How and where does your organisation bank and invest money?

Moving from identification to action

Risks and opportunities.
Assess risks and opportunities to help prioritise actions and areas of focus.

Consider both how your actions will financially impact your business and how they will impact society and the environment.



Moving from identification to action

Act, embed and report.
Integrate nature targets and business goals and measure them over a period time. Designate responsibility across the teams and departments, rather than having just one sustainability champion.

Collaborate and celebrate.
Work as a team and support each other, making sure to celebrate the successes to drive future momentum.



What can organisational nature action look like?

Nature action will look different for every organisation, but no matter your size or sector, there are impactful steps you can take. Here are some areas, with examples, that you might want to explore.

Staff engagement

- Stride Treglown supports local nature and staff wellbeing with their garden space, including a bee hive and allotment.
- TLT promotes environment-focused staff volunteering days, for example partnering with Belmont Estate to assist their rewilding work.

What can organisational nature action look like?

Procurement and supply chain

- Bristol Zoological Society ensures all the products they buy are certified deforestation-free, such as soy, palm oil and coffee.

- Severfield engaged with their top 10 suppliers about the importance of biodiversity.

What can organisational nature action look like?

Policies and commitments

- Thrive Renewables involved the whole team in their biodiversity policy development feedback process to ensure internal buy-in.

- OVO Energy joined the Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures Early Adopters Scheme to start reporting how they impact nature.



Support to help inform strategy and action

Commitments and requirements for businesses

International targets

Businesses can support progress towards global nature recovery and international targets, such as Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 30by30 target: achieve nature positive by 2030, full recovery by 2050.

Target 15 focuses on encouraging businesses to reduce their impact on nature.

Support to help inform strategy and action

Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)

As a result of the Global Biodiversity Framework, the TNFD has been set up, with the aim to shift global financial flows away from nature-negative outcomes toward nature positive ones. It is a market-led and science-based taskforce.

TNFD Recommendations provide a framework and a set of tools to help organisations access and report their impacts and dependencies on nature, which organisations can voluntarily align to as an adopter.

Support to help inform strategy and action

Tools and data to help prioritise nature action areas

ENCORE

A tool to help businesses identify and prioritise quick wins within business activities. It can help institutions take their first steps towards meeting the requirements for TNFD.

Science based targets network

A platform to help organisations and cities develop science-based targets for nature, providing guidance on how to quantify environmental impacts and how to set credible targets and action plans.

Support to help inform strategy and action

WWF biodiversity risk filter

A corporate and portfolio-level screening tool to help companies and investors to prioritise action on what and where it matters the most to address biodiversity risks.

IBAT

A platform providing world-leading biodiversity data informed by hundreds of experts.



Support to help inform strategy and action

A list of resources to help guide your organisation

- Nature's Workforce: resources and step-by-step guide to help employers talk about the role of business and nature recovery within the workplace.
- AXA XL Nature Risk Insight Report: a resource outlining how companies can integrate nature-related risks into their risk management strategy.
- CISL, Better Business Working Paper: outlines how to shape nature positive aligned business models.
- Proteus: Every Job is a Nature Job: explores how companies can protect nature and build resilience.

Support to help inform strategy and action

A list of training to support your nature action plans

- A-Track training — Embed Nature: a practical capacity-building program to embed nature in operations, finance & strategy

- UNGC — Learning for Nature: a variety of online programmes, focused on nature-based solutions for sustainable development

- TNFD training — Knowledge Hub: guidance to help organisations assess, report and act on nature-related issues

- Supply Chain Sustainability School: free virtual learning platform focused on a range of sustainability topics.

Key takeaways

- Remember to focus on the positives. While we often hear about nature being in decline, it's important to recognise that there is hope and your organisation can make a difference.
- Remember positive action looks different for every business. Prioritise areas that you are able to influence.
- Supporting nature needs to be embedded within the organisational strategy and ethos, going beyond one individual championing biodiversity.

For more Climate Action Programme resources visit:
bit.ly/CAP-Home

Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership

This resource was created by Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership's Climate Action Programme in collaboration with Simon Garrett, Louise Nichols and Jenny Hughes from the sustainability consultancy Nature Positive.

With thanks to our Climate Action Programme sponsors

Bristol BID

Bristol City Council

and Partnership supporting members

Avon Wildlife Trust

Bristol City Council

S&W

Burges Salmon

Centre for Sustainable Energy

BRISTOL city leap

Walk Wheel Cycle Trust
Formerly Sustrans

Triodos Bank

West of England Combined Authority

University of Bristol

UWE Bristol
University of the West of England

VisitWest

Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership

bristolclimatenature.org