**Something for the weekend....Action #25:**

**Getting your workplace greener**

❗️More than 80% of natural disasters are caused by Climate Change.

❗️It is predicted that the UK will face damage to infrastructure from storms and flooding, regular periods of drought and an increase in heat related deaths due to dangerously hot summers in our cities. It will harm living and working conditions (TUC: Greener Deals)

.

This week [UNISON](https://www.facebook.com/unisontheunion/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARBFnLF8MtFacedKwMksSWlo0Ia3mikUxmCXwlgwHdrKeZ1gClbD2hxfH1dbQf6X-O2oj7D6zXMNTea7&fref=gs&dti=308664193075982&hc_location=group) have been promoting the TUC Green Workplaces agenda through their ‘Green Week’ campaign. [https://www.unison.org.uk/events/green-unison-week/](https://www.unison.org.uk/events/green-unison-week/?fbclid=IwAR0dIn890gzEyOtVQIQeXY4trnqnPmRQGvVtRSpQ2WWoGVpC9ssMNufJshY)

Information features the following:

Half of UK carbon emissions are produced by work activity:

* Workplaces burn energy, consume resources and generate waste and travel - for some, the most significant contributory factors are said to be from vehicle emissions arising from commuting to / from the workplace and meetings.
* Potentially improve morale and productivity – 60% of UK employees say it’s important tot work for a company that has an active policy to reduce its carbon emissions (YouGov survey 2007).

✅The workplace is therefore an obvious place to focus action on climate change - organisations are better placed than individuals to install cost-effective green measures.

Where do you start What can you do?

Do a walk around; what do you see?

Are there plastic free swaps to be made?

Can resources be purchased from sustainable suppliers?

Can bottled water coolers be exchanged for mains water coolers?

Are all current resources necessary - can you REDUCE or REUSE?

Are there visible and accessible recycling points available? ♻️

What happens to food waste?

What energy supplier is used?

🚲 How many people cycle to work - are there adequate facilities to park and lock bikes up? Are there any car shares organised?

Before you know it, you’ll have a comprehensive list to use as a starting point.

Don’t try and do it on your own or overload yourself; plan, list and record ideas and achievements, big or small. Raise staff awareness and encourage behavioural change; as TUC point out, true sustainability is a team effort and cannot be achieved without the active co-operation and interest of all. Get everyone engaged - clients & customers; colleagues; senior management; HR and Facility / Maintenance departments.

.

.

Is anyone doing this already? Share your experience - have you any tips or advice? What has worked well, or not so well?

So whether you’re a paid employee, volunteer, working independently or as part of a wider team - the UK Climate Change Act 2008 sets a target for an 80% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2050; and 34% by 2020.

[BCP Council](https://www.facebook.com/MyBCPCouncil/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARA7Q2QI6V2hM1ROzC-bsPeOm7cqrTSaRo5PfkcqEhmIwaFJPEa5pSRJpmSuNCF1bhxEO-d_2ELqTZ3c&fref=gs&dti=308664193075982&hc_location=group) has declared a Climate Emergency and has a goal to be carbon neutral by 2030; and an ambition for the BCP region to be carbon neutral before 2050.

These goals will only be achieved through collaborative action. Be part of it!