

The Mayor's Business Climate Challenge

FAQs for Business Recruitment

What is the Mayor's Business Climate Challenge (BCC)?

The BCC is a voluntary energy efficiency programme that supports businesses in reducing their workplace energy consumption **by at least 10% in a year** and in developing an action plan to reach net zero emissions. The BCC is coordinated through nine [business engagement partners](#). Businesses who are members of our business engagement partners' networks are invited to apply.

Participants receive bespoke technical support from a team of energy consultants including a workplace audit, recommendations for energy savings, training, and engagement with peer businesses. Businesses that achieve the 10% target will also receive recognition from the Mayor.

Who are the Business Engagement Partners?

The partners are nine Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and Climate Change Alliances (CCAs) located around London. This year, the partners are Better Bankside, Camden Climate Change Alliance, Heart of London Business Alliance, Islington Sustainable Energy Partnership, Love Wimbledon, Positively Putney, Station to Station, Fitzrovia Partnership, and Team London Bridge.

Eligibility

What businesses are eligible for the programme?

Eligibility criteria include:

- **Building management:** Owners, owner-occupiers, building managers and tenants all may participate. However, BCC participants must have influence over/ability to make changes to workplace operations.
- **Size:** The BCC is focused on enterprises of 50-249 employees, but smaller and larger businesses will be considered. Buildings participating in the Challenge should ideally have 50+ employees (this can be across multiple participating businesses) but this could be fewer if they have a significant energy demand.
- **Building type:** Spaces that include a mix of uses are eligible. Retrofit works have previously focussed on office space, but the expanded BCC is also piloting approaches to support retrofit in other commercial uses.
- **Membership:** Businesses must belong to one of the [9 participating Business engagement partners](#) to apply.

You can find the full business eligibility criteria here [\[link to eligibility criteria\]](#). * If you think your business may be eligible, or you are interested in learning more, please reach out to BusinessClimateChange@london.gov.uk.

What if my business is not a member of one of the Business Engagement Partner networks?

If your business is not part of any of our members and you are interested in learning more about the challenge, feel free to reach out to the BCC at BusinessClimateChange@london.gov.uk as there may be opportunities in future for you to engage with the BCC.

All businesses can access free learning materials through the [Climate Hub webpage](#) and can sign up to the '[Call to Action](#)'.

Do businesses need to be a certain size to participate in the BCC?

The BCC is open to private businesses of all sizes. Medium-sized enterprises (50- 249 employees) will be prioritised due to the energy savings they can achieve, feasibility of implementing energy efficiency actions, and support needed to assess retrofit needs. However, applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Business sizes:

- Microenterprises (0 – 9 employees)
- Small enterprises (10 - 49 employees)
- Medium enterprises (50 - 249 employees)
- Large enterprises (250+ employees)

Does the programme prioritise certain building uses/sectors?

The BCC is prioritising commercial office space for support but other sectors will also be supported in this expanded programme. This is because there are significant similarities across office spaces across London, ensuring that learnings from the programme can be helpful to a wider cohort than those directly involved. However, applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis for other sectors such as retail, hospitality, etc., assuming they meet other eligibility criteria.

Are public sector buildings eligible for the BCC?

Public buildings are not eligible for the programme. Public buildings can access no-cost energy efficiency support and technical assistance through the GLA's [Retrofit Accelerator - Workplaces \(RA-W\)](#) to support decarbonisation efforts.

Do participating businesses have to own their workspace?

The BCC will be open to owners, owner-occupiers, building managers and tenants who have some control over their premises to implement energy efficiency measures. Participants must have influence over the workplace and the ability to make changes to how the space is operated. Businesses that are unable to make structural changes to their premises but can influence energy usage through their operations are still eligible. Preference will be given to participants who can demonstrate both tenant and landlord buy-in. A participating organisation may be made up of single or multiple tenant businesses in one building or be the building owner.

My business leases part of a building; do I need permission from my landlord to enroll in the programme?

The BCC will prioritise tenants who can prove buy in from their landlord, however, it is not a requirement. As long as your business can make operational changes to your workplace premise, you can still participate.

My business recently completed a workplace audit and/or retrofit works, can I still participate?

The BCC does not intend to duplicate existing building decarbonisation efforts by individual businesses. We recommend that you first assess our technical support offer to ensure that it complements rather than substitutes your initiatives before applying. Businesses that have recently undergone audits and/or retrofit works are eligible to participate, however, your business must still commit to a 10% energy reduction. Businesses must justify how the BCC will add value and build upon their existing energy efficiency initiatives in their application.

My business has already set a target for reducing our energy use – should we still consider participating in the BCC?

Yes. The BCC may be able to help you achieve your target, or accelerate your efforts. Please assess the technical support offered by the programme to ensure that it is not duplicative of your existing initiatives. Applications that outline how the BCC furthers their existing energy efficiency initiatives will be considered.

Can I participate in the programme if my building is already very efficient?

Perhaps. If you have a workplace that has achieved significant energy savings, we would be glad to hear from you and discuss how you might engage with the BCC. Please feel free to reach out to us at BusinessClimateChange@london.gov.uk.

Benefits

How should I think about the benefits of the BCC to my business?

By participating in the BCC, you can:

- **Reduce your energy bill** through more-efficient operations and cleaner technologies
- **Distinguish your business to clients, staff, and talent** who are looking for a commitment to sustainability
- **Support London's target of net zero emissions by 2030**
- **Improve the value and health of your workplace**
- **Access a network of like-minded businesses** in your BID/CCA and throughout London that are participating in the Challenge
- **Be recognised** as a leading London business and a climate action pioneer.

What specific supports and resources does the BCC offer my business?

Support and resources offered through the BCC include:

- **Technical support** from an energy consultant including a workplace audit, a bespoke recommendation report highlighting tailored energy conservation and retrofit measures for your business, and a building “walk through” to discuss the report recommendations and next steps. The consultant will also offer one-to-one follow-up calls to address any ongoing challenges/questions and suggest relevant financing options.
- **Training sessions and educational materials** to inform and upskill facilities managers and other staff.

- **Knowledge-sharing** opportunities with participants from your BID/CCA and with other businesses citywide.

What does recognition through the BCC include?

Businesses will be recognised at different stages of the programme. Participants taking early actions to reduce their energy consumption through the implementation of measures will be highlighted on our webpages through case studies and social media. Participants who achieve their energy reduction target will be awarded and presented with a certificate at the end of the programme in a Mayoral event. Awards for high achievers undertaking significant retrofits and achieving deep levels of energy use reductions will also be distributed. Further, business engagement partners will organise a cohort-level recognition event to reward BCC participating businesses from their membership.

Does the BCC include assistance to access, collect, and understand my energy data?

Yes, BCC consultants will provide resources to support you in collecting your energy data and understanding how you can act on learnings in collecting, assessing and understanding your energy data. Further, BCC trainings will include a data literacy module to upskill facilities managers.

What is the focus of the audit, recommendation report, and action plan?

The audit and recommendation report focus on operational energy efficiency measures to reduce scope 2 emissions (indirect owned emissions through purchased energy - electricity, steam, heat and cooling, etc.) from your **building premises only**. The BCC has focussed on building energy consumption as this is by far the main source of greenhouse gas emissions in London, accounting for more than two thirds of the city's carbon footprint.

The action plan sets forth a tailored pathway to move your business towards net zero and tackle any intermediate targets that you may have set.

What is the building walk through?

The building walk through is an in-person session where consultants will go through the recommendation report with you. They will explain insights and patterns from your current energy consumption, recommendations on measures your business can take to achieve energy and cost savings, and your pathway to net zero. They will discuss practical implementation steps your business can take to reach your 10% energy reduction target and solve any queries you might have.

Once the BCC has provided advice to businesses on energy savings, is there further support in terms of implementation of measures?

Currently the BCC does not provide implementation funding, however, the Challenge will highlight funding available for energy saving interventions from existing sources where available or possible. In addition, as part of the pilot we found that significant savings were possible from low or no cost measures which would not require significant additional investment upfront.

Application process

How do I apply to the programme?

You can apply to the BCC through our business engagement partners. The programme is open to businesses who are members of one of our nine partners' networks. You can find who our partners are [here](#). If your business is not part of any of our members, you can still access free BCC learning materials through the [Climate Hub webpage](#). We would encourage you to apply in upcoming years as the programme expands.

Impact

Can I expect to see cost savings at my business?

The audit reports set forth measures that, if taken, will enhance operational efficiency and cut costs. Among participants in the first iteration of the programme, average energy cost savings were approximately £8,300 (16%). Cohort-wide, businesses have saved nearly £120,000 in less than a year.

My business is very focused on reducing its emissions footprint – will this have an impact on greenhouse gas emissions?

Yes – taking action to reduce energy through retrofits offered through the BCC provides businesses with the opportunity to deliver real emissions reductions. Businesses participating in the pilot BCC saw a total reduction of 213 tons of CO₂ equivalent in the first nine months of the programme.

Commitments

What is my business committing to through participation in the BCC?

Businesses that participate in the BCC must commit to a 10% reduction in energy consumption in a year. At the start of the programme, you must provide requested energy use, building equipment, and occupancy data. During the programme, you must share monthly energy use data and information about energy efficiency measures that you have implemented.

Does the BCC require a dedicated point of contact at my business?

Yes. The BCC will require you to identify a dedicated project lead and a secondary point of contact, ideally on your estates or sustainability teams. They will act as the main interface for BCC engagement and reporting. You must also appoint a decision maker who can approve energy efficiency implementation measures. The decision maker can also act as a project lead.

What happens if my business does not achieve the 10% energy reduction target?

Businesses will need to report their energy consumption data as requested and reach their energy savings 10% target to be recognised at the end-of-programme BCC Mayoral event. However, there are no other consequences for not meeting your target.