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**Tips:**

* Invest in EV Chargers
* Setting goals and an action guide to reduce your Carbon Footprint allow for a focused approach
* Taking advantage of telecommuting and virtual options allow for less traveling
* [Ames Smart Energy](https://www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-a-h/electric/smart-energy) offers Business as well as home energy audits.

**Examples in Smart Businesses:**

* Mary Greeley Medical Center installed solar panels on its roof to reduce energy consumption from natural gas usage
* 3M does carbon accounting and has set emission reduction goals at their plants, including in Ames

**Ames Resources**

**Commercial EV Charger Rebate**

The [City of Ames Electric Department](https://www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-a-h/electric/smart-energy/commercial-programs) offers many commercial rebates for business to utilize when implementing new projects. The new EV charger rebate gives business $2,500 per port (50% of cost maximum) if it is made publicly available as well.

**Carbon Footprint Calculators**

TheCoolClimate Network’s [Carbon Footprint Calculator](https://coolclimate.org/business-calculator) is a tool that can assist you in tracking carbon input within many areas of your business and highlights opportunities where you can make improvements. Moreover, any action plans a business would like to pursue can be discussed with our team so we can research resources to assist you in your pursuit of those goals since this is a key part of section 8 of the checklist.

**SunSmart Power Packs**

The Ames SunSmart community owned solar project allows for a portion of energy usage to be offset by the Solar Energy Farm as little as one solar pack to running your entire business from solar energy, this program allows you to use solar energy without needing any infrastructure on your building. There is still the opportunity to purchase [SunSmart Power Packs](https://www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-a-h/electric/smart-energy/solar-energy/sunsmart-ames-first-community-solar-farm) from the City of Ames community solar farm. This is a great option to offset part of your electricity use throughout the day. If you have any further questions on SunSmart, you can contact the City of Ames Energy Services Coordinator, Joel Zook, at (515) 239-5177 or [joel.zook@cityofames.org](mailto:joel.zook@cityofames.org).

**Other Resources**

**Carbon Accounting**

[Greenhouse Gas Protocol](https://ghgprotocol.org/) is the carbon accounting standard in the United States. It explains how to calculate your business’s carbon footprint for a variety of industries and how to measure the complex Scope 3 emissions.

**Telecommunications**

Telecommuting can reduce carbon emissions from work commuting, the [Preparing for Remote Work](https://www.business.com/articles/preparing-smb-for-remote-work/) article can give you some ideas to help your team prepare for effective communication. Some of these applications can be used after the pandemic to streamline your business during busy schedules to transfer information faster. Telecommuting can reduce carbon emissions from work commuting, here are some ideas to help your team prepare for effective communication.

**Carbon Neutral Protocol**

The Natural Capital Partners offers a [Carbon Neutral Protocol](https://carbonneutral.com/pdfs/The_CarbonNeutral_Protocol_Jan_2021.pdf) to assist businesses in their sustainability goal to offset their emissions to become carbon neutral and join the growing roster of companies benefitting from credible climate action. This guide assists a business like yours create a framework to deliver carbon neutrality for entities, products and/or activities.

**Climate Neutral Certified**

The [Climate Neutral Certified Products Program](https://www.climateneutral.org/) offers information on labeled brands that can help businesses choose brands with net zero carbon emissions. Carbon emissions to manufacture and transport products to a business’s location is one of the biggest contributors to carbon emissions and they tool allows businesses to lead their own path reducing that factor.

**EPA Green Power Partnership**

Going green in terms of energy production can be a big investment for small businesses, but there are other ways to invest in renewable energy. One helpful resource for businesses who are looking into renewable energy supply to their location is the [EPA Green Power Partnership](https://www.epa.gov/greenpower/carbon-footprint-reduction-instruments). This resource gives you valuable information on what types of energy methods and suppliers fits with your business needs and costs.

**Reducing Emissions for Restaurants**

This following [5 Ways to Reduce Restaurant Carbon Footprint](https://www.dinegreen.com/post/2017/10/26/5-ways-to-lower-your-restaurant-s-carbon-footprint) article gives some ideas on how restaurants can lower their carbon footprint throughout their daily operations while also keeping an efficient level of productivity. Many of these recommendations are aligned with long-term sustainability by giving your business insight on how carbon footprint can be reduced for your long-term goals.

**Greenhouse Emission Sources**

The [EPA Greenhouse Gas Emissions](https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions) webpage can give you information on where greenhouse emissions are produced. Moreover, there is additional information on reduction strategies your business can use to reach your carbon footprint goals.

**Business Community Bike Program**

The following [Bikes Make Life Better](https://bikesmakelifebetter.com/bikes-business-tools-guide-company-bike-fleets/) article describes the implementation of community bikes to improve a work environment and gives benefits on different types of bikes. Not only do bikes reduce emissions, it's also cheaper to maintain than company cars for employee use. Small businesses can use bikes like bigger companies incorporate them to allow employees to get around a local location.