



## Starting an eco-council

If you are part of a large organisation, or a tenant of a multi-occupancy building, why not consider starting an eco-council?

An eco-council is essentially a group of people coming together to act collectively on environmental issues within their offices/organisations. They are useful because actions are shared, which lessens the burden on one person or organisation to make all of the changes. Together, you can support each other to improve your own practices and policies, as well as influence or even lobby others to do the same.

This document will give you a few tips for taking your eco-council from a fledgling thought into reality. Remember, it doesn't have to be perfect for it to make a difference!

### Find interested people

If you don't know who to invite to your first eco-council gathering, you could send out a short survey to the people in your building asking them to suggest some key actions that could be taken to reduce waste and energy. Then once you've had your responses, ask them whether they would like to be part of an eco-council!

### Get together

The best way to start is to just get together. All of the details and planning can come later. Get in a room (physical or virtual) and hatch a plan over a brew.

### Clarify your purpose

Setting your main aims as a group is essential if you are to work together on something. Perhaps your purpose is to influence and change your organisation's environmental policy or bring different companies within one building into united eco-action, or make your office completely plastic-free. Regardless, having a shared aim will make deciding on and taking actions easier.



**GOING  
GREEN  
TOGETHER**

## Keep momentum

It's natural that people don't always have the exact same amount of time or energy for something in a given week or month. So, it's natural that groups can sometimes struggle to keep momentum. But, even in these moments, try to keep the gatherings going, or the emails flowing, and don't let the lag drag you down!



An example from a Newcastle-based eco-council of recycling made easier

## Act Together

All too often, one or two individuals who have the confidence to act can end up at the helm of a group project. This isn't necessarily a bad thing. But it is important that everyone feels a sense of collective ownership over the group and therefore act collectively. As the saying goes, many hands make light work. So, encourage many hands, no matter what 'level' the contribution!



## Explore ideas

There is no one way to tackle the climate crisis! Don't be afraid to explore creative and unusual ideas, no matter how far out they might seem. You never know what's possible until you try. [Read about the MEA House eco-council](#) to see some of their ideas.

## Share

It's important that you tell the members of your organisations and other tenants within the building about what you are up to in the eco-council. Doing so helps to raise awareness about the need for climate action and also helps to encourage others along the way. People who see what you are up to might feel inspired to get involved and join the eco-council!

Telling other people what you and your eco-council are doing might be the spark of inspiration they've been waiting for to get going with their own! Share your plans, progress and learning with others to help the movement grow.

Tell [Going Green Together](#) about your eco-council and its progress on our Share page to inspire others.