



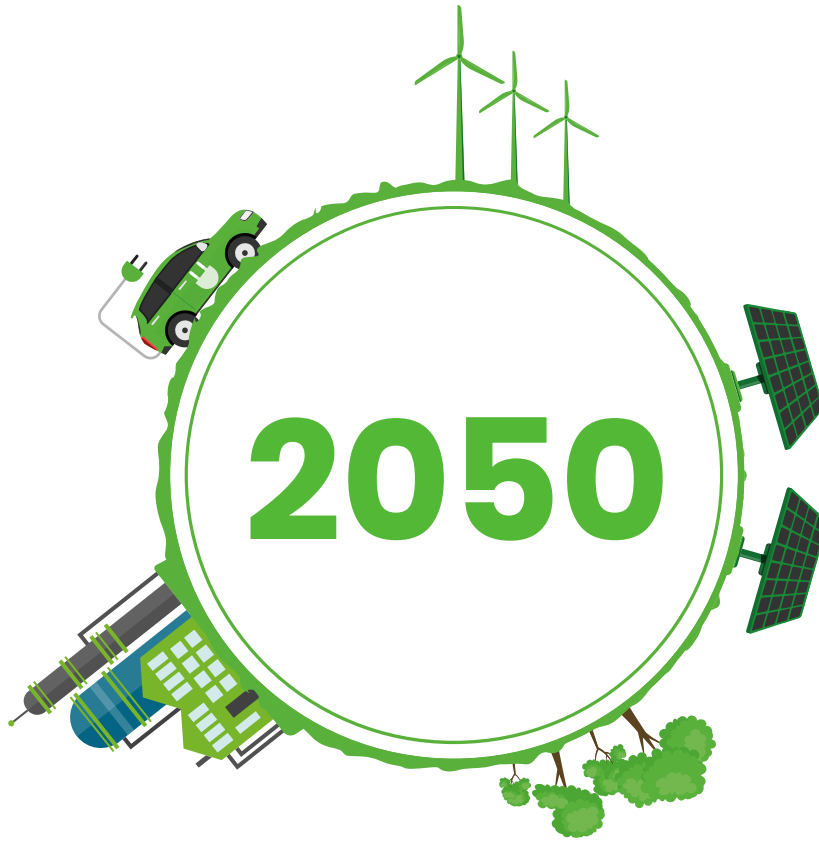
# Your journey to Net Zero with Control Energy Costs



**CONTROL**  
ENERGY COSTS

**“For many businesses, looking at how you buy and use energy is the starting point on a journey to becoming Net Zero. As a business, our aim is to help push towards a tipping point where Net Zero becomes a ‘must do’ rather than ‘nice to do’ for every business.”**

– Phil Ager, Managing Director, Control Energy Costs



We've all heard about climate change and now everyone is talking about reaching Net Zero. We can all do our bit to help and what we do to limit emissions in the next decade is critical to our future. The UK set a target to achieve Net Zero by 2050, which is looking increasingly over-ambitious unless businesses act immediately. By working together, we can help each other get there.

## What is Net Zero?

Net Zero refers to the balance between the volume of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases come from almost everything we do – our commute, our work, our food, the list goes on.

This balance – or Net Zero – will happen when the amount of carbon we add to the atmosphere is no more than the amount removed. Put simply, reducing the UK's emissions by 100% from 1990 levels.

## Why is Net Zero important?

Achieving Net Zero is necessary to arrest global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

In December 2019, the UN announced that going beyond that temperature will most certainly lead to catastrophic disaster.

Net Zero means a fundamental change across the entire economy, decreasing our dependence on fossil fuels and reducing other sources of emissions wherever possible.





# 2050

## **When do we need to achieve Net Zero?**

The year 2050 is seen as the first realistic date for Net Zero emissions to be achieved, balancing the urgent need to take action with the inevitable impact on the economy. Achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050 will require nothing short of the complete transformation of the global energy system.

The more of us who commit to starting a journey to Net Zero, the faster we will progress and the greater the benefit for all of us.



## How do we achieve Net Zero?

The Paris Agreement agreed to keep the average temperature rise well below 2, preferably 1.5 degrees Celsius, and to meet this aim we need to put on our carbon handbrakes. We can achieve this by being more energy efficient, using renewable or low carbon technologies and working to create a circular economy, utilising carbon offsetting to counterbalance the rest.

## **Steps to achieve Net Zero**

Achieving Net Zero requires coordinated action touching on many parts of an organisation. What may seem overwhelming can be broken down into strategic and controllable steps. Transformation starts with analytics, moves on to creating solutions, and ends in implementing change. Achieving Net Zero requires investment and buy in from all areas of a business and thought needs to go into creative ways to achieve it.





## 1. Review

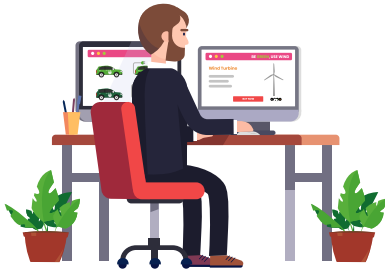
The first stage of any strategy is to know your current position. With Net Zero, that is knowing what your emissions sources are, how much you emit and how they can be reduced. This is a crucial step in achieving Net Zero, so it's good to spend time getting this right and having an accurate answer set as your foundation to build your strategy on.



## 2. Reduce

Once your carbon baseline is known and you have an adopted Net Zero strategy in place, it is time to ensure your annual emissions reduce in line with your targets. Options to reduce emissions can vary across business sectors, but reduce actions will provide the carbon reductions required to achieve Net Zero and have the potential to provide financial savings that can be reinvested in future projects.

**Quick actions:** use energy reporting to engage with staff and drive behaviour change, set a policy for low carbon travel and avoid travel altogether where possible.



### 3. Renew

Alongside taking action to reduce your carbon footprint, it is key to identify options for renewable generation, together with innovative solutions and technology to further provide net carbon reductions. As we progress on our journey to Net Zero, businesses will create new solutions to help achieve the common goal.

**Quick actions:** move to renewable energy contracts, consider a purchasing standard and set a policy to look at sustainability options within all purchasing decisions.



### 4. Rebalance

It is unlikely that we will be able to achieve Net Zero through Reduce and Renew actions alone, so will need to look at options to remove carbon from the atmosphere. Offsetting is commonly seen as tree-planting in the UK or overseas which directly benefits the environment, plus provides local employment, biodiversity, health improvement and other social benefits. However, there are other Gold Standard projects that allow you to invest in green projects in developing countries.

## What next?

We understand that things are more likely to happen if we can make the journey to Net Zero as engaging as possible. Working with Energise, our Net Zero consultants, we have two solutions that will help you take the path of least resistance to get there as quickly as possible:

### 1 **Net Zero Club**

For small and medium sized businesses that want to take the lead in reducing their impact on the planet, Net Zero Club provides a simple fixed cost step by step pathway plan for your business

### 2 **Pathway to Net Zero**

Typically for businesses with 250 or more employees, this is a bespoke consultancy service focused on providing a customised pathway plan for your business





For an at large discussion with a Net Zero consultant or to find out how we can help you start a journey to Net Zero (or even continue on a journey you have already started), please get in touch.

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