

# BUSINESS CLIMATE CHALLENGE X BANKSIDE



## FAQ

Want to find out more about joining the [Business Climate Challenge x Bankside](#)? We've put together some frequently asked questions below.

If you would like to speak to a member of the team at Better Bankside, please contact Amandeep Kellay, [AK@betterbankside.co.uk](mailto:AK@betterbankside.co.uk) and Josephine Clarke, [JC@betterbankside.co.uk](mailto:JC@betterbankside.co.uk) or call us on **020 7928 3998**.

**What types of businesses are eligible to participate in the program?**

This pilot is open to businesses **which are tenants in, or owners of, commercial buildings** and is best suited to office spaces. This includes:

- Businesses (or groups of businesses) which are tenants in a multi-tenant building
- Owner-occupiers of a building
- Landlords of a building (occupant or non-occupant)
- Businesses which manage a commercial building

This pilot is open to both private businesses, not-for-profits and other non-public organisations. Public sector organisations are excluded from this pilot as they can access the existing GLA Retrofit Accelerator programmes.

Medium size businesses employing between roughly 50-250 people are eligible to participate. In cases where a group of businesses in a multi-tenant building are applying the 'lead' participant should ideally be under 250 employees.

A participating organisation (or lead organisation in case of a group) should have responsibility and decision-making power for the building's infrastructure and operations.

Buildings should ordinarily be occupied by over 50 employees- this can be across multiple businesses. We note that organisations cannot plan for a return to the office at this point, and that their occupancy might not be the same post-Covid 19 as it was before the pandemic. We recommend that the 'ordinary

	<p>occupation' rate of an office building should be based on a post-Covid 19 scenario.</p>
<p><b>Why should I participate and what will I get?</b></p>	<p>As the pressure increases from employees, customers, NGOs and numerous other stakeholders to increase transparency on sustainable and socially responsible practices - articulated through Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting - this programme can be a great first step to prove that your company is proactively adapting to the risks of climate change, and take action to reduce their environmental footprint.</p> <p>Participants will be recognised by the Mayor, your customers and peers as a sustainability leader, by committing to and delivering on ambitious energy targets.</p> <p>Programme participants will receive bespoke expert advice and support to enable them to take action to improve their building's environmental performance, health and value, as well as contributing to London's net-zero targets. These services are free to selected businesses.</p> <p>This support will be tailored to their building and is a great opportunity to take action on environmental footprint and energy costs. A building will receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Display Energy Certificate and Advisory Report as a standardised audit. (This will be a draft version and the participating organisation can decide to officially lodge their DEC on the national register)</li> <li>• A findings report with a road map of tailored actions to take their building to net-zero</li> <li>• A 1:1 meeting, including a building walk through, to explain the findings report.</li> <li>• Access to a cohort of like-minded businesses in your area</li> <li>• Training sessions and 1:1 support</li> </ul>
<p><b>What is net-zero?</b></p>	<p>In simple terms, 'net zero' means our total emissions are equal to or less than the emissions we remove from the environment. This can be achieved by a combination of emission reduction and removal by offsetting. Emissions can be removed or absorbed by natural processes such as tree planting or by using technologies like carbon capture.</p>
<p><b>What are your expectations of participants?</b></p>	<p>Participating organisations are expected to commit to a 10% reduction in energy usage in the 12 months from the pilot start, and to set further energy reduction targets going forward.</p> <p>To achieve the best results participating (lead) organizations are expected to commit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A dedicated project lead to be the main point of contact for the program</li> <li>• A decision maker who is able to approve changes to the building regarding infrastructure and energy use. (Project lead and decision maker can be the same person)</li> <li>• A time commitment from the decision maker or designated project lead to attend building audits, training sessions and one to one meetings. Indicatively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 day for building audit and walk through meeting;</li> <li>○ 1 hour per week thereafter to follow up with initiatives identified and attend training sessions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A commitment to sustainability and willingness to improve the performance in their building</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participating organisation will need to submit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Data on energy usage (e.g. monthly electricity, gas, and water bills)</li> <li>○ Building usage (e.g. occupancy patterns)</li> <li>○ Building systems (type of heating etc).</li> <li>○ Meter readings (where possible)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All participating organizations are expected to provide feedback on this programme through for example surveys, interviews and meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>What is the “recognition” provided?</b>	<p>This challenge programme is a pilot, and as such we are testing various elements to see what can be scaled up. This includes what type of recognition businesses would be interested in.</p> <p>This may include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Mayoral event to recognise the success of participating businesses</li> <li>• Recognition at London Climate Action Week</li> <li>• A ‘badge’ or other form of confirmation of participation and commitment to energy reductions</li> <li>• Personal recognition for individual efforts in the programme</li> </ul> <p>We will be seeking feedback from businesses throughout this programme to determine what is most suitable</p>
<b>What if I don’t have access to energy usage data?</b>	<p>If you are considering participating but do not have access to your building’s energy usage data you should speak with you facilities or building manager. It is best to ask them if the building manager is interested in participating- or if they are willing to commit to sharing the data with your businesses to enable participation.</p> <p>If your facilities or building manager is unable to share this information with you it may still be possible to participate. Please reach out to the Better Bankside team to discuss this.</p>
<b>I am a tenant in a multi-occupant building. Can I participate?</b>	<p>Yes- tenants in a multi-tenant building are eligible to participate, though you will need to discuss this with your building manager, or landlord.</p> <p>It is important that we are able to access the energy usage data required to benchmark your energy usage within the building and provide an achievable recommendation report. It is also important that you are able to make changes required to achieve energy savings.</p> <p>A participating organisation should have responsibility and decision-making power for the building’s infrastructure and operations. You may need to secure ‘consent in principle’ from your landlord to progress with the pilot.</p>
<b>We are a landlord only business, can we participate?</b>	<p>Yes, you are eligible to participate as the landlord of a building. This pilot is aimed at buildings with at least 50 occupants in a post-covid scenario.</p>
<b>I am in the Bankside area but not a member of Better Bankside? Can I participate?</b>	<p>It is not possible for businesses who are not members of the Better Bankside Business Improvement District to participate at this point.</p>

<p><b>I recently completed a retrofit of my building but would like to be a part of this. Is that possible?</b></p>	<p>Businesses who have recently completed retrofits or taken other energy efficiency actions are still eligible to participate. Participating organisations must commit to a 10% reduction in energy use.</p>
<p><b>I am not in a position to make any significant alterations to the services of my building, can I still participate?</b></p>	<p>You are still eligible to participate if you are unable to make significant structural changes to your building.</p> <p>However, it must be possible to make changes to operations and energy usage.</p>
<p><b>What is a “display energy certificate”?</b></p>	<p>A Display Energy Certificate (DEC) shows the energy performance of a building based on actual energy consumption as recorded over the last 12 months within the validity period of the DEC (the operational rating).</p> <p>The operational rating is a numerical indicator of the actual annual carbon dioxide emissions from the building. The various types of energy consumption from occupying a building must be brought together on a common basis so that the performance of one building can be compared with that of another. The UK has decided that the common unit should be CO2 emissions, since this is a key driver for energy policy.</p> <p>This rating is shown on a scale from A to G, where A is the lowest CO2 emissions (best) and G is the highest CO2 emissions (worst).</p> <p>More details <a href="#">here</a></p>
<p><b>What is the process of selecting businesses for participation in the program?</b></p>	<p>This pilot programme seeks to test the concept of offering this type of support to London’s businesses. Businesses will be selected on their potential to make energy savings and their commitment. As such key elements for the selection of businesses will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to sustainability and willingness to invest in their building</li> <li>• The nomination of a decision maker who can commit the building to taking energy saving actions</li> <li>• The nomination of a project manager who commits to participating in audits, trainings and meetings and communicating information to decision maker (executive) and the wider business</li> <li>• Please note these two roles can be fulfilled by the same person, or different people as preferred.</li> <li>• Businesses who are eligible for other GLA programmes, such as the <a href="#">Retrofit- Accelerator for Workplaces</a> are ineligible for this pilot.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What happens if I was not selected or am not eligible? Will I have future opportunities to participate?</b></p>	<p>We hope to be able to run this challenge scheme again, with opportunities for more London buildings.</p> <p>We encourage all businesses who are interested in this opportunity to let us know, even if participation is not possible at this point, as this will help us to form a larger version of the programme in future.</p>

**Business Climate Challenge x Bankside is an initiative brought to you by:**