

the little book of big ideas

The issues around climate change and sustainability are so huge and wide-ranging that it can be hard to work out what to do for the best.

We have over 20 years' experience in managing buildings and resources, and improving people's surroundings. That means we've got hundreds of great ideas to make you greener and cleaner – and help you save money while you're doing it, too.

This little book shows off some of our best ideas, and the good things we're already doing for some of our clients. So whatever the challenge, we're pretty certain we're already solving it for someone, somewhere.

Recycling

The best way to make your business more sustainable is to use less – less water, less energy, less paper, less plastic. Combine that with a smart approach to recycling and you'll see your costs as well as your footprint going down.

Business critical

These days recycling isn't just an easy way to a warm fluffy feeling. It's crucial and commercial. With landfill costs rising by £8 per tonne from April 2008 and new directives about the treatment of non-hazardous waste, you need a partner like MITIE. We collect, recycle and deal with over 350 different types of waste, and because we're not tied to using our own disposal facilities we can not only get you the best price whilst cutting emissions by using local suppliers.

Paper here, plastic there

It's obvious, really, but the more you separate your waste the easier it is to recycle, which is why we now offer special bins to help you do just that. At Rolls-Royce we now use the same plastic cups at all their sites, which makes the process even easier. And our TREEHUGGER® desk-trays are helping hundreds of businesses recycle their paper, which makes up 40% of the average office's waste.

Less is more

You'll be surprised how much you can recycle if you really try – and the knock-on effects it can have. Lots of our clients are now re-using the green waste from their landscape maintenance as a natural mulch, which lightens the landfill and cuts the chemicals – all in one go.



Whether it's at home, at work, or on the move, these days we all need to give more thought to sustainability. But the good news is all it takes is a bit of lateral thinking and some bold ideas. Which is where we come in.

Dun-wastin'

Now this is one we're really proud of. We helped to make the old Dunlop tyre factory in Birmingham into one of the most environmentally-sustainable buildings of its type in the UK. From its use of intelligent management systems, and its living roof, to its new aircon system that's 300% more efficient than the old one, it all adds up to a MITIE success story.

Fresh air

A lot of modern buildings are now using natural ventilation to save energy and minimise maintenance. This uses pressure differences to move fresh air through buildings, to create a complete circuit of airflow. And it cuts carbon emissions, too.



Transport

Transport produces around a third of the UK's carbon emissions, and the haulage industry in particular is often criticised for the levels of pollution and congestion it creates on the roads. Another case where less would definitely be more.

Better by miles

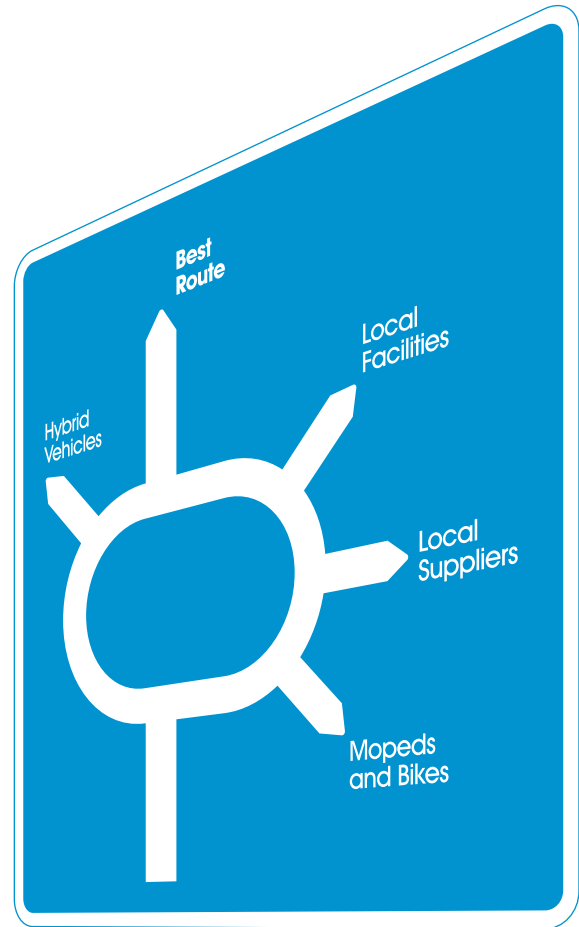
Our catering business is looking to reduce its food miles by 10% (over the next year). This means doing bigger deliveries less frequently, using the same supplier to provide a wider range of food, and sourcing locally wherever we can.

Think local, act local

Another one of those blindingly obvious good ideas: using local contractors for local jobs. Using GPS trackers to locate the nearest available supplier, as we're doing for Milton Keynes Council, both reduces mileage and supports the local economy, as well as giving our client a speedier and more efficient result.

Roads less travelled

We're getting cleverer about how we manage our people and resources to cut down the number of unnecessary journeys. And we're even replacing some of our vans with bikes and mopeds to reduce our CO₂ emissions.



Energy Efficiency

Buying power from renewable sources is one good way to make a positive impact, but actually the greenest form of energy is the energy you don't use. And it comes with the added benefit of saving you money too.

The big turn off

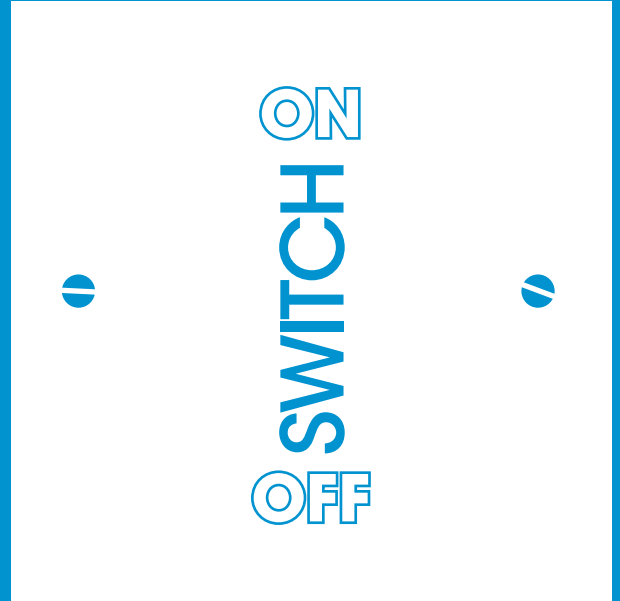
The average office wastes a colossal £6,000 every year simply by leaving equipment on at night and over the weekends. Which is why these days our security patrols don't just check for problems, but can also turn off your PCs and lights, and report faults too.

Daylight saving

Yet another simple but effective idea: don't clean at night, when you have to have all the lights on, but during the day, when you won't need them. We're already doing this for Pfizer, and you'd be surprised how much energy it saves.

Green thinking

One of the big new things we're doing in building management is to use 'intelligent' management systems. These control and monitor how much energy, water, and ventilation is being used – and show where the big savings could be made.



Education

We do a lot of work in schools, but we're also doing more and more to educate people in the wider community about sustainability. What it means, what you can do about it, and – of course – how we can help.

Our survey said...

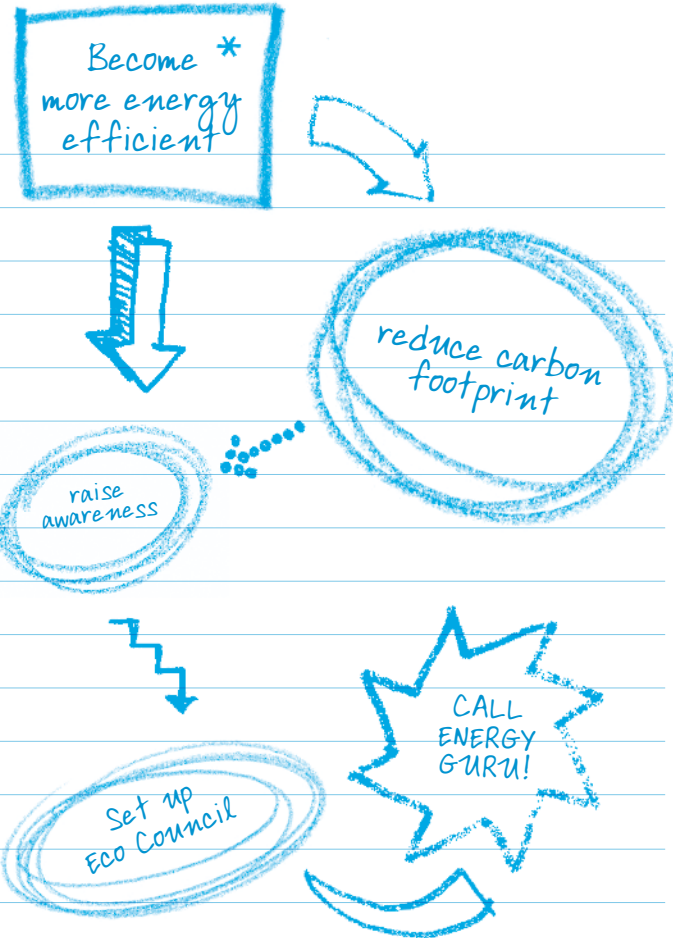
Our energy efficiency surveys are one of our simplest and most effective services when it comes to helping clients understand – and then reduce – their carbon footprint.

Up to speed

We also hold sustainability forums across UK, giving our clients regular briefings about changes in environmental legislation and the latest developments in the field. And across the business we have specialist low carbon consultants and energy gurus to make sure you always get the best and most up-to-date advice.

Schools in

All the schools we work in now have their own Eco Council, each made up of a student rep, a teacher and someone from MITIE. They work together to raise environmental awareness at the school, encourage everyone to reduce waste, and promote more recycling.



* education, education, education!

It's the burning of fossil fuels that's triggered the changes we're seeing in the world's weather, but since our need for energy isn't going to reduce any time soon we need to find smarter and greener ways to generate it – and fast.

Ground force

There are exciting new possibilities for more sustainable energy that tap into the geo-thermal heat naturally generated under the earth's surface. Our ground source heat pumps are economical, environmentally friendly, and could be a stable and long-term answer to the world's energy needs.

CHPs with everything

Combined Heat and Power (or CHP) systems are another good idea, allowing our clients to recover heat from their own generator. We've installed these at two universities, and it's providing 20% of the electricity needed by one of them, and saved the other £300,000 or 1,500 tonnes of CO₂.

Bio-mass market

Bio-mass boilers make use of organic fuels – usually woodchips from specially grown trees, harvested locally. In Scotland we're putting boilers like these into the eight new schools where the facilities management will be our responsibility.



NATURAL GOODNESS

