Sustainable business and resource efficiency

All businesses can save money by using resources such as water, energy and raw materials more efficiently. Forward-thinking companies are already seeing the opportunities and the benefits sustainability can offer. It is estimated 2% of UK business profits per year may be lost through inefficient use of resources. UK businesses could save around £23bn per year by making simple changes to use resources more efficiently and help protect the environment and natural environment.

Making processes more sustainable can improve businesses' bottom line by driving down costs, opening up new markets through innovation, and enhancing reputations and brand value. Businesses that don't use resources more efficiently will miss out on potential commercial opportunities and will lose out as prices for scarce commodities rise.

In 2008/09, low carbon and environmental goods and services (LCEGS) were worth £112 billion, and employed around 910,000 in the UK and were worth £3.2 trillion globally. This is projected to rise to £4 trillion by the middle of the next decade.