

CommunityCheck Scheme

What is CommunityCheck?

CommunityCheck enables the staff, managers and visitors of publicly accessible buildings to consume more sustainably within their communities.

Who is this available to?

This service is available to organisations whose buildings are open to the public such as:

- The food and drink sector
 - e.g. pubs, restaurants, cafes, hotels, B&Bs, clubs, community centres
- The health and beauty sector
 - e.g. doctors' surgeries, dentists, hairdressers, beauty salons, health food retail outlets, health clinics, health centres, care homes, hospices, day centres
- Community places
 - e.g. Churches, community centres

What does a CommunityCheck entail?

We look at:

- **Waste** – how much they produce, what they do with it, whether there are any initiatives for reducing waste, recycling waste, etc.
- **Energy** – whether appliances are energy efficient, whether energy is wasted (e.g. things not switched off), whether pipes are lagged, radiators have foil behind them, etc.
- **Water** – whether appliances are efficient (e.g. spray/sensor taps), whether taps are switched off.
- **Transport** – whether car-sharing is encouraged, how people (staff and customers) travel to the building.
- **Purchasing** – whether the environment is considered when buying things (environmentally friendly cleaning products, energy-efficient stuff), whether stuff is purchased locally.
- **Good practice** – whether schemes are in place for recycling, etc.
- **Training** – are staff involved in training courses, are any of these environmental, what does induction involve, does it cover environmental things, like turning off lights, recycling, etc?
- **Taking initiatives** – e.g. housing community recycling schemes.

The process:

- Two-hour site visit, when we work through a checklist of questions about the above, and look around the building.
- We assess how they perform on the above categories, and give them scores.
- We write them a report detailing our findings and including recommendations for reducing their environmental impact and saving money. We also include a list of contacts who might be of relevance to them (e.g. organisations running recycling schemes).
- We send them an evaluation questionnaire for feedback on the scheme after three months.
- We provide them with support, through Environmental Champions, to help them to implement our recommendations
- We do a ReCheck six months after the EcoCheck, to evaluate any changes in performance.

How much does this cost?

Absolutely nothing. CommunityCheck offers its services free of charge.

How can this benefit the organisation?

- **Save money.** Some of our recommendations suggest ways in which they could reduce their water and energy consumption, and the amount of waste they produce. As they have to pay for these, following our recommendations could help save them money. CommunityCheck could help them to reduce their waste bills by up to 1% of their annual turnover, their water bills by up to 50%, and their energy bills by up to 20%.
- **Good publicity.** Organisations that have signed up are listed on the CommunityCheck website, with further details provided for our best practice case studies. We also mention Checked organisations in our press releases. Once an organisation has improved its environmental performance, we will provide it with a certificate of environmental achievement.
- **Help to ensure legal compliance.** Whilst CommunityCheck is not part of the enforcement process, our reports will contain references to recent developments in legislation, how this will affect an organisation, and what they can do to ensure compliance.
- **Improved environmental performance.** Our report will make the organisation aware of the environmental impact that their building is having and will help them to reduce their environmental impact. As the environment is a growing concern, demonstrating their interest in protecting the environment could help to attract more customers.