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**Tips:**

* Invest in EV Chargers
* Setting goals and an action guide to reduce your Carbon Footprint allow for a focused approach
* Taking advantage of telecommuting and virtual options allow for less traveling
* [Ames Smart Energy](https://www.cityofames.org/smartenergy) offers commercial and home energy audits.

**Examples in Smart Businesses:**

* Mary Greeley has solar panels on its roof to reduce energy consumption from natural gas usage
* 3M does Carbon Accounting and has set emission reduction goals across their locations

**Ames Resources**

**Commercial EV Charger Rebate**

The [City of Ames Electric Department](https://www.cityofames.org/My-Government/Departments/Electric/Smart-Energy/Commercial-Programs) offers many commercial rebates for organizations to utilize when implementing new projects. The new EV charger rebate gives organizations $2,500 per port (50% of cost maximum) if it is made publicly available as well.

**Carbon Footprint Calculator**

The [Carbon Footprint Calculator](https://coolclimate.org/business-calculator) is a tool that can assist you in tracking carbon input within many areas of your organization and highlights opportunities where you can make beneficial action plans. Moreover, any action plans a organization would like to pursue can be discussed with our team so we can research resources to assist you in your pursuit of those goals.

**SunSmart Power Packs**

The Ames SunSmart community owned solar project allows for a portion of energy usage to be offset by the Solar Energy Farm as little as one solar pack to running your entire organization from solar energy, this program allows you to use solar energy without needing any infrastructure on your building. There is still the opportunity to purchase [SunSmart Power Packs](https://www.cityofames.org/My-Government/Departments/Electric/Renewable-Energy/SunSmart-Ames-Solar-Farm) from the City of Ames community solar farm. This is a great option to offset part of your electricity use throughout the day. If you have any further questions about SunSmart, you can contact the City of Ames Energy Services Coordinator, at (515) 239-5177.

**Other Resources**

**Carbon Accounting**

[Greenhouse Gas Protocol](https://ghgprotocol.org/) is the carbon accounting standard in the United States. It explains how to calculate your organization’s carbon footprint for a variety of industries and how to measure the complex Scope 3 emissions.

**Telecommunications**

Telecommuting can reduce carbon emissions from work commuting; the [Preparing for Remote Work](https://www.business.com/articles/preparing-smb-for-remote-work/) article can give you some ideas to help your team prepare for effective communication. Some of these applications can be used after the pandemic to streamline your organization during busy schedules to transfer information faster. Telecommuting can reduce carbon emissions from work commuting; here are some ideas to help your team prepare for effective communication.

**Carbon Neutral Protocol**

Natural Capital Partners offers a [Carbon Neutral Protocol](https://carbonneutral.com/pdfs/The_CarbonNeutral_Protocol_Jan_2021.pdf) to assist organizations in their sustainability goal to offset their emissions to become carbon neutral and join the growing roster of companies benefitting from credible climate action. This guide assists a organization like yours create a framework to deliver carbon neutrality for entities, products and/or activities.

**Climate Neutral Certified**

The [Climate Neutral Certified Products Program](https://www.climateneutral.org/) offers information on labeled brands that can help organizations choose brands with net zero carbon emissions. Carbon emissions to manufacture and transport products to an organization’s location is one of the biggest contributors to carbon emissions and the tool allows organizations to lead their own path reducing that factor.

**EPA Green Power Partnership**

Going green in terms of energy production can be a big investment for small organizations, but there are other ways to invest in renewable energy. One helpful resource for organizations who are looking into renewable energy supply to their location is the [EPA Green Power Partnership](https://www.epa.gov/greenpower). This resource gives you valuable information on what types of energy methods and suppliers fit with your organization's needs and costs.

**Reducing Emissions for Restaurants**

This following [5 Ways to Reduce Restaurant Carbon Footprint](https://www.dinegreen.com/post/2017/10/26/5-ways-to-lower-your-restaurant-s-carbon-footprint) article gives some ideas on how restaurants can lower their carbon footprint throughout their daily operations while also keeping an efficient level of productivity. Many of these recommendations are aligned with long-term sustainability by giving your organization insight on how carbon footprint can be reduced for your long-term goals.

**Greenhouse Emission Sources**

The [EPA Greenhouse Gas Emissions](https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions) webpage can give you information on where greenhouse emissions are produced. Moreover, there is additional information on reduction strategies your organization can use to reach your carbon footprint goals.

**Walk Bike Roll Ames**

[Walk Bike Roll Ames](https://www.cityofames.org/My-Government/Departments/Public-Works/Traffic-Engineering/Walk-Bike-Roll-Ames) is a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan that developed recommendations for paths, sidewalks, bikeways, and street crossings to help make Ames a place where walking, biking, and rolling is safer, more comfortable, and easier for everyone in Ames, regardless of their age or ability.