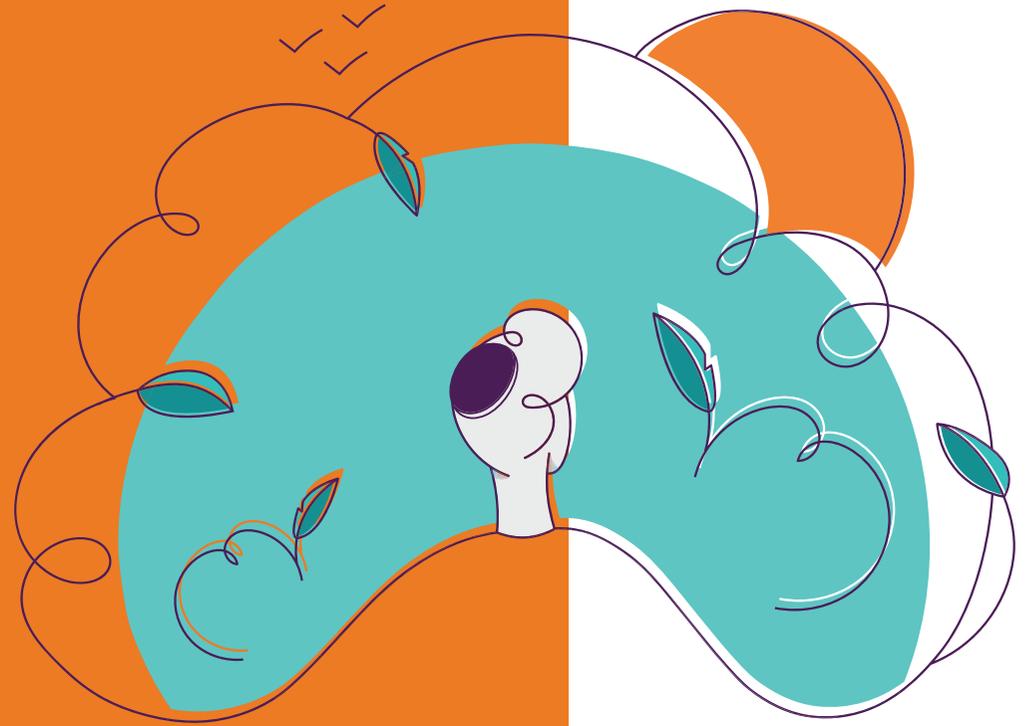




# CLIMATE CHANGE 101



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Heart of the City has launched *climate for SMEs: 4 steps to action*, a climate change course bespoke for SMEs. We're helping SMEs act against one of the greatest issues of our time, climate change, and contribute to the government's legally binding target for the UK to be net zero by 2050. To reach this target, every inch of the UK needs to act, from large businesses all the way to micro businesses and into your personal lives.

Climate change is causing the earth to heat up quickly, resulting in a climate crisis. It's been linked to a number of extreme weather events, from flooding and fires to record breaking temperatures.

The rapid rise in the earth's temperature has been caused by humans, since the industrial revolution when the widespread use of fossil fuels began. Burning fossil fuels releases gases into the atmosphere that trap heat from the sun, causing a greenhouse effect on the planet. Other human actions such as deforestation and over consumption exacerbate the problem. If we do nothing, the earth as we know it will change and we'll see dramatic events: frequent extreme weather, rising sea levels and vanishing coastal areas.



*Every business can be a force for good*  
*Updated in June 2021*

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BBC News published their [\*what is climate change?\*](#) video which highlights some of the key points relating to the cause of climate change and the steps we all must take to slow it down:

“The world’s average temperature is now 1.1°C higher than it was in pre-industrial times. Sounds small? It’s not. It’s already changed our planet.

Can we stop it? Not completely, but we can slow it down significantly [...] it requires enormous changes to the way we live.

The UN has warned that the window to act on climate change is closing and in 2021 world leaders will have to set out, in the greatest detail yet, how they plan to cut their emissions ahead of COP26, a major climate change meeting in Glasgow in November.”

It’s so important for your business to act now. The actions you take to become net zero by 2050 (or before) can help slow down climate change and limit the earth’s temperature rise to 1.5°C - that’s above pre-industrial levels which is the vital tipping point.



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