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Presentation follows below

Understanding the Net Zero Challenge for SMEs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse

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Headline Facts

131 respondents;
 68 (52%) from South Oxfordshire,
 54 (41%) from Vale of White Horse,
 5 (4%) OCC and 4 (3%) Cherwell.

Wide range of sectors:
 Community or Charity,
 Café, Retail, Arts & Recreation,
 Professional and Scientific
 Construction, Tourism & Travel,
 Mostly firms established for
 10+ years (66%), but with
 <10 staff (73%)

Main challenges
 Access to funding (46%)
 Growing business (37%)
 Responding to environmental
 challenges (28%)
 Making a profit (27%)

64% are aware & understand UK
 Govt's intentions for Net Zero,
 32% aware but don't understand
 4% unaware

19% are fully active in lowering
 emissions
 51% are engaged but could do more,
 24% not doing anything but would like
 to start
 5% not engaged and do not intend to

Barriers to action:
 Access to finance (66%)
 Lack of resource internally (34%)
 Lack of time (28%)
 The return on investment is not
 sufficient (23%)

Likelihood to do more to reduce
 carbon emissions
 likely/very likely (70%),
 unlikely/very unlikely (9%)
 On the fence (21%)

Support
 Ear-marked small grant (89%)
 Access to sustainability platform (53%)
 Mentoring from a sustainability expert
 (51%)

Recommendations

Recommend a blended approach to the support provided, particularly while the efficacy of each approach is evaluated

Opportunity to experiment with the way grants are allocated/combined with other support

Important to evaluate which support-mix is most effective in achieving maximal reduction in carbon emissions

E29: Supporting decarbonisation – what comes next?

Programme support and guides



Supported decarbonisation plans or energy audits



Grant funding

