

For SMEs

Start with what you do. Build what you need.

Your business can begin without a large sustainability department. NatureSynth OS helps you organise what is already in place, identify gaps and focus on practical next steps using the records and knowledge available in your team.

Assessment shaped around your business

Our smaller-business approach is designed around a narrower, activity-sensitive scope for eligible independent organisations. Important responsibilities remain relevant. A workshop, food producer or manufacturer may need different depth from an office-based consultancy.

A familiar question	A practical starting point
Who is responsible?	Name the person who looks after the relevant activity or decision.
What do we already record?	Use genuine bills, logs, instructions, training records or supplier information where relevant.
What is missing?	Identify the gap and the information or practical improvement needed to address it.
What should we do next?	Turn the findings into actions with an owner and a realistic review date.

WHY BEGIN

Build a clearer picture of your current practices and priorities. Assessment can support that work; it does not guarantee a contract, loan, grant, cost saving or certificate.

NatureSynth OS • SME brief • Methodology reference: NS-D04 • Edition 1.1 • Review edition.

What “proportionate” means for your business

Proportionality means matching the assessment to relevant activities—not treating every small business as identical. Your operations, ownership context, size and chosen product help define the appropriate scope.

Eligibility is specific to the pathway

The smaller-business route has NatureSynth-specific eligibility rules. It is not a legal definition used by a government, lender or grant programme. A business within a larger controlling group may require a different route even when the local team is small.

Risk still matters

Physical operations, hazardous substances, land or nature-related activities and other material exposures can require deeper questions. Where records are missing, the gap remains part of the assessment rather than making the topic automatically not applicable.

Evidence can be practical

Genuine bills, logs, instructions and operational examples can be useful where they support the relevant requirement. Explain what happens, who is responsible and how often. Distinguish established practice, partial implementation, plans and uncertainty.

UNDERSTAND YOUR COVERAGE

Your smaller-business result describes its own assessment scope. It is not automatically equivalent to a broader corporate assessment, even when both results are strong.

Related reading: Public Methodology, NS-D04. Eligibility and review options depend on the selected pathway.

A practical sequence for your first assessment

Step	What to do
Choose a coordinator	Usually an owner or someone who understands daily operations and can ask colleagues for facts.
Confirm the route	Explain your activities, ownership and objective; confirm product and review availability.
Gather useful records	Start with a small set of relevant, genuine records. Add further evidence when a question needs it.
Answer honestly	Record what is in place and what needs work. Check any AI-proposed wording.
Choose priorities	Assign a few actionable improvements, keep evidence and revisit progress.

Can a small business pursue recognition?

A small business may pursue recognition through a separately approved active scheme covering its assessment edition. Independent review and decision requirements still apply. Ask about available review arrangements before relying on them; preparing and approving the same assessment does not establish independence.

What information is needed to begin?

Share your main activities, organisation and group size, location, assessment objective and any deadline. These details help define the right starting scope. The selected assessment then identifies the relevant evidence requirements.

NatureSynth OS • NS-D08 • Edition 1.1 • 16 September 2026 • Review edition. Explore the next step at naturesynth.com.