



Green Gown
Awards 2016



Dissemination
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Finalist's case study

University of Cumbria Carbon Reduction

Lower Mileage; Lower Carbon;
Lower Costs

About the project

Summary

We aimed to provide a range of travel options so that staff would review how they make business trips, making fewer journeys and using less intensive and costly forms of transport. In particular we targeted use of grey fleet as this has a poorer safety and environmental performance than most other forms of land-based travel.

Project partners

Internally, most staff have been involved but principally Facilities Management, Finance and HR worked together on the policy approaches. A number of external partners helped us to implement our travel mix, in particular the Energy Saving Trust, Lex Autolease, Enterprise (Rent A Car and Car Club), Virgin Trains, Co-Wheels, Stagecoach, liftshare.com and Cycle Solutions.

The results

The problem

The University operates across multiple campuses in the north west of England together with a campus in London. This has generated a lot of staff travel through teaching, placement visits and general meetings.

The approach

The University embarked on a planned approach to tackling with this in order to reduce our environmental impacts, health and safety risks and financial costs. Central to this was the adoption and promotion of a Travel Hierarchy which promotes reduced and more efficient travel over other modes. First, we eliminated our large pool car fleet and, more recently, we have targeted policy change to reduce grey fleet use. Case studies and surveys indicated that if staff stopped using their own cars for business journeys then often those journeys would be eliminated rather than being substituted to other modes.

Our goals

In 2012-13 our grey fleet impacts were: 191 tonnes of CO₂e; 611,000 miles claimed at a cost to the University of £275k. Taking into account that there would be some movement to other modes of travel, we were seeking a net reduction in total grey fleet costs of approximately £75k pa.



Profile

- Higher Education
- 8,000 students (includes full and part time)
- 800 staff
- Multi-campus

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Performance and results

By the end of 2015-16 academic year our grey fleet performance had improved to:

- Cost: £97k pa (65% reduction).
- Mileage claimed: 324,000 (47% reduction).
- CO2e: 98 tonnes (49% reduction).

The reductions quoted are compared to the 2012-13 position.

Overall Business Travel Achievements

As well as grey fleet, we also look at our total land-based business travel performance as a percentage of staff FTEs, in order to ensure that the impact of major structural changes in the University on the data can be minimised:

	£ per FTE	Tonnes CO2e per FTE
2012-13	729	0.35
2013-14	683	0.34
2014-15	581	0.30
2015-16	559	0.28

The future

Lessons learned

Simple measures can have a real impact if supported by senior management. Travel measures that achieve financial savings often go hand in hand with reduced environmental impact and health safety risks. If they understand the motivations for a change staff will often be supportive. Being a relatively small university can sometimes help with the speed at which changes can be agreed and implemented.

Sharing your project

As well as dissemination through EAUC, we have worked with the Energy Saving Trust. They have recognised our work and have included this in two of their best practice guides: short term vehicle hire and grey fleet management. We have also contributed to local and trade media coverage.

What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

We won the carbon reduction category of the Awards in 2012 for our work on travel. That we have been a finalist in 2016 demonstrates that we have continued to make changes and reduce our environmental impacts by improving existing schemes and bringing in new initiatives.

Further information

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