



Climate
Challenge
Fund



PART OF THE
Keep Scotland Beautiful
CHARITY



Greener
Scotland
Scottish
Government



Go Green

Edinburgh College

Students' Association

Context of the project

- Project funded by Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund (CCF)
- Partnership between ECSA, Edinburgh College Development Trust and the College's Sustainability Team
- Awarded over £170,000 for 2 year project (until March 2020)
- We are the first college Students' Association to receive CCF funding
- Two full-time members of staff (Alex and Claire), and four part-time student assistants.

What's the project? 5 Key Outcomes:

1. Students will participate in training to drive more fuel-efficiently
2. Students will switch to walking & cycling
3. Students will start sharing lifts more
4. Students will use public transport more – with a particular focus on vulnerable student groups who currently use taxis.
5. Student will have an increased awareness of climate change more generally.

Why are we running the project?



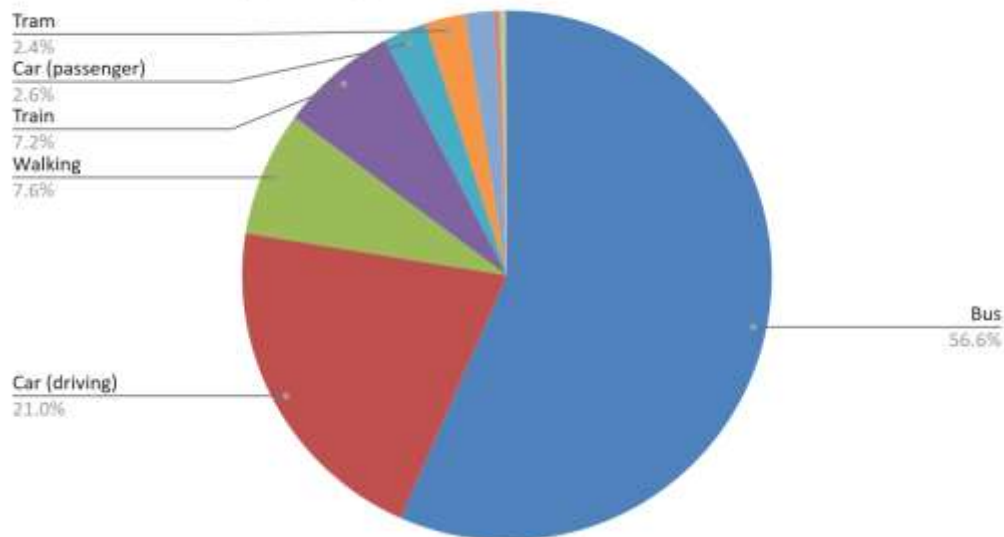
- College Sustainability Officer wanted an increased budget and level of staffing for sustainability, so came to ECSA.
- Student travel has previously been identified by ECSA as a barrier to student retention and a positive student experience.
- Travel survey in Welcome Week 2017 highlighted low levels of active travel, and high levels of driving. This has been repeated in 2018 and 2019 surveys.
- Travel is also a big sustainability issue – 37% of Scotland's emissions come from transport, more than any sector.

Why is the project needed?

Compared to other institutions, we have much lower rates of active travel, much higher rates of public transport, and higher higher rates of driving.

Median distance travelled by students is less than 5 miles. Around 30% of students are travelling less than 3 miles.

How do Edinburgh College students travel?



Percentage of students using mode of transport	Walking	Cycling	Public Transport	Driving solo
Edinburgh College students	7.6%	1.8%	66.2%	17.2%
Napier University students	19%	6.4%	49.5%	16.5%
Mean for FHE institutions (of available data)	32.3%	7.8%	41.2%	14.3%

How can we engage students? Successes

*****This can vary massively between campus and demographics!*****

Works well

- Incentives and challenges!
- Relating it to health / financial benefits
- Links with staff
- Working in class time
- Stalls (depends on campus, energy levels)

Our successes

- 257 tCO₂e estimated to have been saved through changes to student travel.
- Over 1000 students have engaged in some aspect of the project.
- Renewed focus on sustainability in the curriculum

How can we engage students? Struggles

*****This can vary massively between campus and demographics!*****

Works less well:

- Focusing exclusively on sustainability
- Student-led sustainability club
- Lunchtime classroom events
- Free breakfast – to an extent
- Stalls (depends on campus, energy levels)

Struggles we have faced

- Internal barriers (Lack of college resources, culture of college)
- External barriers (demographic cultures, infrastructure)
- Restrictions on what CCF money can be spent on.
- Unforeseen complexities - e.g., accompanying vulnerable students

Future plans to improve engagement

- More structure to sustainability club, make it easy to drop in/out – don't model it on university experiences!
- Advertise Low Carbon Travel Student of the Year earlier – adds a bigger incentive to participating in our activities.
- Using photos and quotes from previous participants to make activities more appealing.
- Going into class time more.

Over to you!

Claire will now lead an example of a small activity we are considering running in LDT sessions. We ran this at our Full Time Officer Training as a trial.

The resources themselves were developed by a team at Bath University, and can be accessed at this link: <https://teachinghub.bath.ac.uk/curriculum-development/citizenship-and-sustainability/sustainability-in-your-curriculum-identify-improve-inspire/>

Go to www.menti.com on your phones, and put the code _____ in

Sustainability in your curriculum:
identify, improve, inspire!



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH



the 3 Pillars of Sustainability

- Social (People)
- Environment (Planet)
- Economic (Profit)



Based on 'Sustainable Development' from 'Wikipedia' under Creative Commons license and further adapted from UN Global Goals (SDG), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (2015), Miller (2011), and Miller and others (2011).



Image: iStockphoto from iStockphoto.com/Thrive.org/James Thorne/Files of James Thorne 404 x 304

the UN Sustainable Development Goals



Activity: In groups think of...

- Ways in which sustainability is already embedded in your curriculum (If any)
- Ways in which you would/could embed sustainability into the curriculum of your course (e.g. Course add-ons, coursework based on a world wide issue, guest lecturers, projects etc.)

Any questions?
Any feedback?