



Inverness College UHI buys low carbon vehicles to reduce annual transport costs by £2,310

Challenge

Inverness College UHI, one of the largest education providers in the north of Scotland, serves 6,500 full-time and part-time students. Minibuses are vital for transferring students around its sites in and around the fast-growing city of Inverness, with the college spending £18,000 annually on fuel.

Looking to improve its green credentials by saving energy and money, and adhere to its Carbon Management Plan, the college concluded it would need external support with its decision making in this key area.

Solution

The college contacted Energy Saving Trust for a sustainable transport review after attending an electric vehicle (EV) business seminar organised by the trust in Inverness in September 2013. The review helps organisations in Scotland become more efficient with their transport and travel arrangements, and recommends what organisations can do to become more sustainable.

The subsequent review in December 2013, which the college described as 'excellent', 'thorough and robust', identified significant annual savings of over £18,000 and 17 tonnes of CO₂ with almost £9,000 and 15 tonnes CO₂ of this associated with replacing current vehicles with lower carbon models.

Result

The college took prompt action on a number of the review's key recommendations including:

- ✔ buying seven low carbon vehicles (four Peugeot 308s and three Ford transit minibuses) to replace existing models. It is anticipated that this will save the college £2,310 and 4.3 tonnes CO₂ annually
- ✔ looking to book fuel efficient driving training for over 100 drivers which could save £2,795 and 5.08 tonnes CO₂
- ✔ successfully securing one of the Commonwealth Games cycle racks for the campus. This will be moved to the new Beechwood campus when the college relocates
- ✔ exploring an electric bike scheme in partnership with The Highland Council
- ✔ the college has also begun to investigate electric and hybrid vans to take advantage of their recently installed EV charging point and cut costs further.

"We would have struggled to find the most economical vehicles without EST advice! The audit also helped us with external CO₂ reporting processes. We have more work to do and will continue replacing vehicles with low carbon versions if possible."

**Alistair Shevill, Contracts & Procurement Co-ordinator,
Inverness College UHI**

For more information and to find out how Energy Saving Trust can help you cut carbon emissions and save money, visit our website www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/Travel/Driving or email sustainabletransport@est.org.uk