

Rabbie's cuts costs and carbon emissions with FuelGood



Question: What does Rabbie's, one of Edinburgh's most successful minicoach tour operators, have in common with international heavyweights like Boots, BskyB and Vodaphone?

Answer: They have chosen to give their drivers FuelGood fuel efficient driver training. Why? Because FuelGood driving can save businesses (and individuals) around 20p on every litre of petrol - and in Scotland, the training is subsidised by Transport Scotland.

If you are keen on saving the planet, there's an added bonus. Consuming less fuel will cut your carbon emissions too.

Rabbie's is justly proud of the 13 awards it has received for environmental and responsible tourism. Aiming "to leave the legacy of our beautiful landscape for future generations to enjoy", the company promotes environmental awareness among both its staff and customers.

Now that 44 of its drivers have received FuelGood training, Rabbie's has become one of the first businesses in the capital to qualify for the Energy Saving Trust's new FuelGood Recognition Scheme.

Qualifying for the scheme requires a company to train at least 60% of its drivers in FuelGood. Hitting this milestone means Rabbie's can display the FuelGood logo alongside its other achievements, further demonstrating its commitment to the environment and its corporate and social responsibilities.

Paul Wilkinson, Home Energy Scotland's

Business Transport Advisor, says:

"Unsurprisingly for an organisation which has several carbon reduction policies in place, some of Rabbie's drivers already knew their stuff, demonstrating the highest possible fuel efficiency scores from the start of their 50-minute, one-to-one training session.

"The majority, though, saw significant improvements in their fuel consumption and miles per gallon."

Accompanied by an approved FuelGood instructor, each driver drove normally over an initial circuit of local roads then repeated the exercise using fuel efficient driving techniques.

Comparing their results over two laps, participants used up to 26.8% less fuel and achieved up to 36.7% improvement in miles per gallon by the end of their training session.

Paul notes: "Given that Rabbie's drivers clock up over 2.5 million kilometres a year between them, based on these results the company

could save around £51,819 per annum and cut their carbon emissions by 121.25 tonnes by continuing to use FuelGood techniques."

Jeff Ferguson, Director of Operations at Rabbie's, is delighted: "We've had very positive feedback from the drivers who have taken the course and if the results can be sustained it will give us significant savings across the fleet."

The company is interested in giving more of its drivers FuelGood training. Rabbie's the business will not be the only one to benefit. Their drivers will, too. For every 12,000 miles they cover in their own cars, they should see typical savings of £250 just by using fuel efficiency techniques.

Energy Saving Trust has trained nearly 35,000 drivers from more than 500 organisations.

Call 0800 931 669 or email fuelgood@est.org.uk to find out more about free FuelGood training.