



## Grey Fleet Review leads to significant carbon and financial savings for the University of Aberdeen

### Challenge

The University of Aberdeen is Scotland's third oldest university and the fifth oldest in the UK, founded in 1495. With around 3,000 staff and 16,000 students the University is committed to reducing cars on campus to be socially and environmentally responsible.

Prior to working with Energy Saving Trust, the University supported a large grey fleet (business miles travelled in employee-owned vehicles) with staff using their own private vehicles for a variety of business journeys. Grey fleet mileage reimbursement rates are generally higher than alternative modes of travel and, as there was little central monitoring of expenses, large amounts were being paid out for mileage claims stretching limited travel budgets.

### Solution

The University of Aberdeen approached Energy Saving Trust to carry out a Grey Fleet Review to help identify ways to reduce the costs and carbon emissions associated with university staff's business travel. The review recommended a range of measures to manage the grey fleet and van fleet more efficiently and establish a fuel management programme.

### Result

A travel hierarchy was implemented to encourage staff planning a business journey to question the purpose of their trip, whether it could be replaced by video conferencing or if they could travel by a lower carbon method such as by bus or train.

An online tool was introduced to allow staff to accurately measure mileage on a postcode-to-postcode basis, eliminating the possibility of "phantom" or inaccurate mileage claims. These measures delivered savings of over £285,000 and 191 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2015-16 compared to the previous academic year.

“ The Grey Fleet Review has really helped us focus on being more efficient and that's led to a significant reduction in spending already. The savings, both carbon and financial, can be continually monitored and we hope to see further efficiencies in the future by adopting a similar review process.”

**Chris Osbeck, Transport and Waste Manager  
University of Aberdeen**

For more information and to find out how Energy Saving Trust can help you cut carbon emissions and save money, visit

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