



Transport and Travel Planning Policy 2010

The University of Edinburgh estimates 30% of its Carbon Footprint is from the travel undertaken by its staff, students and visitors, primarily in carrying out University business, and also through the commute to work and study. We have, and will continue to implement actions to bring about behavioural change to reduce carbon emissions from transport, and other damaging environmental effects caused by commuting and business travel.

We aspire to make world-leading contributions to understanding and addressing global challenges, and recognise that this requires collaboration with local and global partners. We aim to strike a balance between the recognised benefits of personal meetings with colleagues in other places and the impact that our international travel has on global warming.

At a local level, we are committed to the development and implementation of innovative travel plans to encourage and support sustainable travel behaviour amongst staff, students and visitors. We recognise the important role that active travel can play in supporting healthy working lives and will continue to promote walking and cycling both as a means of commuting and travelling for business.

We also recognise that we must address legislation implications, seek to reduce the carbon footprint of the University's fleet of vehicles, and that we are ideally placed to work with industry to trial new vehicle technologies. We shall, through our sustainable procurement guidelines, ensure that environmental performance is a high priority when new vehicles are being procured, and through training ensure that fuel efficient driving practices are used in our vehicles.

Targets (carbon footprint targets are based on 2007 baseline)

1. Exceed travel to work mode share targets, set out in the City of Edinburgh Council's Local Transport Strategy, that are relevant to specific University sites.
2. To increase active travel mode share – walking and cycling – from 60% in 2010 to 65% by 2015
3. To reduce the carbon footprint of commuter travel by 15% by 2020
4. To reduce the carbon footprint of business travel by 29% by 2020
5. To reduce the carbon footprint of the University vehicle fleet by 29% by 2020.

Objectives

To meet the targets set out above the University will:

1. Ensure that the site specific Travel Plans remain up to date and implement innovative travel planning initiatives targeting staff, students and visitors
2. Promote and implement measures for improving access by walking, cycling, shared vehicles and public transport to and between sites and reduce the need for single occupancy car journeys
3. Ensure that all new developments undertaken by the University implement the very highest levels of provision for travel by non-car modes

4. Provide staff and students with an online tool to calculate commuting & business travel carbon footprint
5. Promote the health and wellbeing benefits of walking and cycling to work or study
6. Implement a Business Travel Policy to address legislation requirements, and reduce the need to travel – or where unavoidable – to support the use of lower carbon modes
7. Improve the provision of videoconferencing and teleconferencing facilities and promote their use
8. Work with local organisations, charities and companies to implement innovative travel plan initiatives, such as a cycle hire scheme
9. Continue to improve the management of all vehicles operated by the University departments to reduce operational risk, cut costs and minimise environmental impacts for the whole community.

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This Policy was endorsed by SEAG on 21 September, by CMG on 13 October, and University Court on 8 November 2010

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