

case study: the highways agency

The Highways Agency is responsible for the operation and stewardship of the strategic road network of motorways and major trunk roads in England. They look to manage traffic in order to improve safety, journey time reliability, and minimise the impact on the environment.

The Highways Agency has approximately 3,700 employees divided into 8 office locations, 6 Regional Control Centres and the National Traffic Control Centres.

the problem

The Highways Agency's National Travel Plan aims to encourage and enable staff to adopt sustainable travel behaviour and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 15% by 2010/11. The Business Plan highlights a target for reducing the carbon dioxide emissions by 5% from the main Highways Agency offices and administrative business travel. They are anticipating there will also be business benefits from by encouraging staff to be healthier and reducing sickness absence in the workplace.

the solution

To help achieve this, Local Travel Plans and dedicated coordinators are in place for all offices and outstations with over 50 staff. They have also signed up to the Cycle to Work Guarantee.

- The Agency have a 'Cycle to Work Scheme' to give employees access to bikes and 90 people have so far used the scheme. 'Bike Pools' are also available at 5 sites.
- They offer a cycle rate of 20p per mile for business travel and supply all cyclists with free repair kits, pumps, rucksacks and cycle glasses.
- All office locations have changing facilities and the majority of main offices have drying rooms available.

the outcomes

Approximately 8 -10% of staff cycle to work in the main office locations.

The Agency are hoping to meet the Cycle Guarantee in full within the next 12 months, and will be looking to have:

- In locations without drying facilities, the Agency are looking either to install drying rooms (at approx. £500 per location) or in two cases will be specifying better facilities for cyclists during office relocations.
- Bike Pools, Buddy systems and Bicycle User Groups at every location.
- Cycle Insurance and Free Bikeability training for all staff.
- Time allowance rewards – to allow for lost time changing and showering once at work.