

Travel Plan Success Stories

Organisation: Dundee University

Sector: Education

Mode: Cycling

In March 2010, University of Dundee has become the first employer in Tayside to receive an award recognising efforts to encourage staff to leave their cars at home and cycle to work instead. The University were presented with a Cycle Friendly Employer Award by Cycling Scotland after meeting the strict criteria laid down by Cycling Scotland.

'The University is keen to promote sustainable travel, and encouraging staff to cycle to work is obviously part of this,' said. Trudy Cunningham, Environment & Sustainability Officer, Dundee University.

'We're delighted to be the first employer in Tayside to receive this award, but we certainly won't be resting on our laurels. We'll keep highlighting the fact that leaving your car at home, and getting on your bike instead, is a win-win situation.

'Cycling to work has benefits for all - it's good for the environment because it helps lower carbon emissions, it's good for the cyclists financially and for their physical and mental well being. It's good for the University as it reduces the number of cars on campus and reduces our footprint.'

Measures

The University has introduced several schemes aimed at encouraging staff to get on their bikes, and help reduce its environmental impact, in recent years. A Cycle to Work initiative allows staff to hire bikes and safety equipment at a cost-effective, tax-free rate that avoids an expensive initial outlay, while a bike pool is available for staff who wish to travel around the University estate on two wheels.

Approximately five per cent of staff and three per cent of students currently commute by bike, and a Bicycle Users Group is well established at the University. New racks, partly funded by Tscran, have been installed across the University campus to allow cyclists to safely park and lock their bikes outside the most commonly used buildings.

Cycling Scotland's Cycle Friendly Employer Award is run in conjunction with the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives. Find out more about the Cycle Friendly Employer Award and how to apply at Cycling Scotland, <http://www.cyclingscotland.org/our-projects/award-schemes/cycle-friendly-employer/>