

Travel Plan Success Stories

Organisation: Dundee University

Sector: Education

Mode: Cycling

The University of Dundee has around 2,500 staff and 18,000 students. Based in the centre of Dundee, the campus is five minutes from the city centre and railway station.

Cycling Scotland success for University

The University of Dundee was 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 was awarded the Cycle Friendly Employer Award by Cycling Scotland in 2010.

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 during the summer months the University has seen more than 10% of its staff cycling. There is also a well-established Bicycle Users Group at the University.

Cycle racks, partly funded by TACTRAN, have been installed across the University campus to allow cyclists to safely park and lock their bikes outside the most commonly used buildings.

The University of Dundee has also taken part in the Bike Boost scheme run by Get Cycling CIC. The Bike Boost scheme sees students and staff able to apply to borrow a good quality bike and accessories free of charge for one month.

The University is on phase 3 of their Bike Boost Campaign with 76 staff having taken advantage of the scheme. The previous year it was aimed only at students with over a 100 students taking part.

In the current phase of the scheme, if after the month they wish to keep the bike and all the accessories there is a charge of £199 (then the University donates another £50) bringing cost down to £149 for staff. Alternatively the bike can be handed back after the month and there is no charge.

As well as all these measures, staff at Dundee University have also taken part in a pilot scheme that will see electric bikes used by estate staff (such as wardens and security guards) to get around campus.

Environment and sustainability officer Trudy Cunningham said she has been personally testing them around the university grounds. She said “The aim is to get people out of their cars, reduce the number of vehicles that we have on campus and lower carbon emissions. These bikes have three settings, ranging from no assistance to 40% assistance and then 100% power assistance. They are good for people who are not great cyclists and are quite easy to use”

The University also hold monthly second hand bike sales (on the first Wednesday of every month) and Dr Bike sessions where staff and students can come and get free basic bike repairs.