

Travel Plan Success Stories

Organisation: James Hutton Institute

Sector: Private Sector

Mode: Cycling

Measures

The Institute is committed to sustainability and reducing its carbon footprint to the lowest practical level commensurate with the realistic needs of the organisation. The James Hutton Institute is also committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment for our people and the people it engages with, including when traveling to the Institute and on Institute business. The Institute shares the Scottish Government commitment towards sustainable transport and reduced road transport emissions.

The Institute has a staff of nearly 550 and 150 PhD students, located in two main sites in Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen and Invergowrie, Dundee, as well as in a number of smaller sites across Scotland.



The Institute and its legacy organisations (Macaulay Land Research Institute and the Scottish Crop Research Institute) have long supported cycling to work and travel planning. In 2009, a Bicycle User Group was established at the Aberdeen site and later extended to the Dundee site, offering members of staff a host of information resources to support them in cycling to work and planning their journeys.

There are facilities to enable and support cycling to work at both Aberdeen and Dundee sites, which include bike sheds and showers. The Institute also participates in the Cycle to Work Scheme, offering members of staff the possibility to buy bicycles and cycling safety equipment tax free through a salary sacrifice scheme. This makes buying a bicycle and cycling safety equipment more affordable.

The National Cycle route 1 passes approximately 2.5 miles to the east of the Aberdeen site, and a number of smaller cycle routes that are part of the Aberdeen Cycle Network provide links to within the vicinity of the site. Likewise, the National Cycle Network route 77 runs out

of Dundee through Invergowrie very close to the Dundee site, providing a convenient link with the Dundee train station.

In 2014, the Institute started 'Sustainable Hutton', an internal cross-site initiative to improve resource efficiency and achieve reductions in workplace-related emissions across four areas: commuting and business travel; electricity and gas; water; and waste. It also aimed to contribute to the Institute's value of "leading by example" as a sustainable workplace and organisational culture and staff wellbeing.

Members of staff also participate in the annual Cycle to Work Day, which sees a number of colleagues get on their bikes and pledge the distance of their round trip commute to work.

In late 2015, with support from Tactran through the Sustainable Travel Grant scheme, the James Hutton Institute introduced an electric pool bike pilot scheme across their two main office sites. It was a 4-month pilot scheme which ran from May until September 2015. Four electric bikes, two in Craigiebuckler and two in Invergowrie, were made available for staff and students to use for local work journeys and commuting.

The Institute has also recently secured match funding from Tactran to install covered cycle parking at their offices in Invergowrie.

Outcome

The pilot e-bike scheme saw a total of 34 people register on the scheme making 59 separate bookings between them. A total of 834km were travelled by the electric bikes over the period of the pilot. Approximately 40% of journeys (across both sites) were business travel and 60% were commuting to and from work.

In a January 2014 staff travel survey, 11% of employees (in both Aberdeen and Dundee) indicated that they preferred to cycle to work.

The James Hutton institute won first place in the 'Love to Ride' Aberdeenshire Cycle Challenge (in the group of employers with 200-499 employees). Several colleagues in Aberdeen registered to join the team and log their miles during March. Altogether, our colleagues in the Aberdeen site logged in 171 trips in 21 days and rode more than 2,350 kilometres – that is more than 7 laps around the Cairngorms National Park!