

## Good Practice Guide - Eco Travel

### Introduction

As part of Our Bright Future, all 31 participating projects have a responsibility to lead by example and incorporate sustainable actions and attitudes into all aspects of their project. This includes, but is not limited to, low carbon and sustainable travel.

According to new Government figures, the majority of greenhouse gas emissions now come from transport (BEIS, 2018) and Britons are reported to prefer to travel by car over taking public transport along with having a very negative view of cycling (YouGov, 2019). Our Bright Future projects have an opportunity to promote low carbon and sustainable travel and broaden its lasting impact on the participating young people, their communities and on the environment as a whole.

Options for promoting low carbon and sustainable travel within a project include:

- **advising project participants** to travel to events/training/workshops by the most sustainable means of transport
- project staff **commuting** to/from work by the most sustainable means of transport
- **Our Bright Future** members travelling to regional/annual **meetings and events** by the most sustainable means of transport

Our Bright Future as a whole, and each individual project, should be aiming to have as low a carbon footprint as possible. Travel habits are among the key elements that dictate an individual's or organisation's carbon footprint and choosing a particular form of transport over another can drastically reduce (or increase) the amount of carbon dioxide emissions that an organisation is responsible for. For example, travelling from Bristol to London alone in a petrol car produces 29.5 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e, whereas travelling by national rail train, produces only 8.85 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e (values calculated using our [carbon footprint calculator](#)).

#### **What is a carbon footprint?**

A carbon footprint is the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly or indirectly by an organisation, product or activity. Six different greenhouse gases are usually included and quantified in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, hence the common term 'carbon' footprint.

By achieving as low a carbon footprint as possible Our Bright Future is setting a strong example for other youth and community programmes and is ensuring the programme's legacy and impact is a positive one.

The Our Bright Future Eco Travel Guidance set out below provides guidelines to how each project, and the programme as a whole, can promote low carbon and sustainable transport and minimise its carbon footprint.

## Travel Guidance

### Advising Project Participants

Each project should advise project participants to travel to project events, training, and workshops etc. by the most sustainable means of transport. This can be achieved by providing them with this simplified travel hierarchy:

*walk/cycle > public transport (bus/train) > carpool > car > boat > plane*

*NOTE: this is a very simplified travel hierarchy and there are other key determining factors such as travelling distance, no. of individuals and model of car, train or plane, which have not been considered, that can also impact the carbon footprint of a mode of transport. The mode of transport used to travel to/from an airport or ferry port should also be considered.*

Advice should also be given to participants on how to travel to each event via public transport and they should be provided with details of the nearest walk/cycle path if the event is local. If car travel is essential, then they should be encouraged to car pool (with incentives if budget allows).

### Commuting

Project staff should also be encouraged and supported to commute to/from work by the most sustainable means of transport. Options for doing so are outlined below:

- [Cycle to Work Scheme](#) - the scheme is free to join and allows employees to obtain commuter bikes through their employer, whilst spreading the cost over 12 months and making savings through a tax break. It promotes a healthier lifestyle and low carbon commute to work.
- If budget allows provide your employees with allowances/rewards for car-pooling, taking part in car-share schemes and/or taking public transport.
- Employees should be encouraged to use internal systems to book travel, giving you greater influence over their mode of transport. A Carbon Footprint Calculator for determining the best mode of transport is available [here](#). Please read the accompanying information at the end of this document.
- If budget allows provide employees with access to communal bicycles/electric bikes to travel to project events etc. and secure bike storage and showers.

### Travel to Our Bright Future meetings and events

Travel to/from Our Bright Future meetings and events such as the regional workshops and the annual seminar should be done via the most sustainable and low carbon modes of transport possible. To determine these modes of transport please use the [Carbon Footprint Calculator](#) also given above and read the accompanying information at the end of this document carefully.

### Virtual Meetings

The simplest way to lower your carbon footprint associated with travel is to avoid it. Technology such as conference and video calls should be utilised wherever possible to minimise unnecessary travel.

### Hire Car Guidance

If travelling by car is essential, then where possible a more fuel-efficient car such as a hybrid or electric car should be hired.

### Plane Guidance

If travel by plane is deemed essential or, in rare cases the most sustainable mode of transport, flights should be non-stop (as taking off/landing emits the largest proportions of emissions) and tickets booked in economy<sup>1</sup>. The mode of transport used to travel to/from the airport also needs to be considered.

Carbon offsetting is also recommended. Credible carbon offset schemes to use can be found [here](#). Remember to include the travel to/from the airport when calculating the carbon footprint of the journey and therefore the carbon offsetting required.

#### What is carbon offsetting?

Carbon offsetting is used to compensate for your carbon emissions by funding a carbon offsetting scheme which will make equivalent reductions of carbon emissions elsewhere. Schemes include projects like tree planting and wind farms.

However, environmentalists say there are many issues surrounding offsetting and the problems are so major that carbon offsetting should be a last resort after you have reduced your carbon emissions by other means i.e. by using low carbon and sustainable forms of transport.

### Carbon Footprint Calculator for a Single Journey

The carbon footprint calculator developed for use under the Our Bright Future Travel Guidance **only**, has been devised using the [UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting 2018](#). More detailed information about the determining factors used and areas of error can be found on the UK GOV [website](#).

To use the Carbon Footprint calculator first determine your transport options i.e. bus, rail, car, etc. and then determine the distance travelled (**in km**) between your start and end destination for each of those transport options. For example, the route a train takes between Bristol and Cardiff differs from the route and therefore distance a car takes between the same destinations.

Enter the distance travelled (km) in the appropriate row. The carbon footprint (kg CO<sub>2</sub>e) is then calculated for that journey and appears in the far right column. Repeat this process for each transport option and you will then be able to compare the carbon footprint for each, thus determine the most sustainable travel option.

**NOTE:** for motorcycle/car journeys only please also enter the number of passengers travelling in the same vehicle. Please clear the carbon footprint when you are finished so it is ready for somebody else to use.

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<sup>1</sup> Air travel factors are calculated on the basis of the area of the plane each passenger takes up. If a plane is comprised totally of business-class seats, as opposed to more closely packed economy class seats, fewer passengers can fly. Therefore, each passenger takes a larger share of the emissions.

**Example:**

Travel from Bristol to Cardiff via national rail train (1.78 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e) vs single passenger in a diesel powered medium car (12.03 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e).

Carbon footprint calculator for a single journey - OBF

Mode	Vehicle Type	CO <sub>2</sub> e per passenger (kg)	Distance (km)	Total CO <sub>2</sub> e (kg)
Rail	Coach	0.02801	40.2	1.12801
	National rail	0.04424	40.2	1.77848
	International rail	0.01226	40.2	0.49291
	Light rail and tram	0.03967	40.2	1.59491
	London Underground	0.0376	40.2	1.51212
Motorbike	Small	0.08463	40.2	3.40411
	Medium	0.1031	40.2	4.14462
	Large	0.13528	40.2	5.43826
	Average	0.11529	40.2	4.63666
	Car	Small car	Diesel	0.14533
Petrol			0.15565	6.23713
Fuel Type Unknown			0.15201	6.12080
Hybrid			0.10957	4.39471
Medium car		Plug in hybrid electric vehicle	0.06995	2.81199
		Battery Electric Vehicle	0.05463	2.21613
		Diesel	0.17353	6.98631
		Petrol	0.19386	7.75420
Large car		Fuel Type Unknown	0.18327	7.36856
		Hybrid	0.11538	4.61828
		Plug in hybrid electric vehicle	0.11392	4.55858
		Battery Electric Vehicle	0.06396	2.56031
		Diesel	0.2152	8.64504
		Other	0.2152	8.64504

**Factors to consider**

There are other factors to consider including the type of transport used, i.e. local bus or coach, small car or large car, and also the flight class (business or economy) and car fuel type (diesel, petrol etc.). Please ensure you have considered these factors and use the correct row when calculating your carbon footprint.