

Facilities Management from A to Z



Based on The FM Lexicon by Martin Pickard
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Green Travel is the term used to describe business travel policies aimed at reducing the impact of the organisationally include on the environment. These would typically include initiatives aimed at encouraging of walking, cycling and use of public transport for travel to and from world as well as when travelling on business. A green travel fleet might include only hybrid cars or perhaps use of bio-fuels. Car sharing schemes and car pools are other common measures.

According to a 2008 study by The World Wildlife Fund (WWF), aviation is one of the fastest-growing sources of carbon emissions in the UK, rising annually at a rate of 3% and representing 13% of the climate change damage generated by the UK. Business flying plays an essential part in determining aviation's future as it currently represents 22% of UK passenger trips and a much higher percentage of airline profitability. Green travel policies are used to reduce business air travel to cut their carbon impact. The current economic downturn has also made cutting executive air miles a priority for many firms. This has led to a reduction in profits for airline companies and an increase in the use of virtual meeting technologies such as audio and video conferencing.

Findings from WWF's Travelling Light report, published in May, show that 41% of FTSE 350 companies already have green business travel policies, while 32% are developing one. Of the companies that already had or were developing a green travel policy, all said they were encouraging the use of audio conference calls; 90% said they were looking into video conferencing; and 84% said they were hoping to reduce the number of meetings they made that required air travel. Of the whole FTSE 350, 45% of companies said they strongly felt video conferencing had the potential to reduce flights.

It is now standard practice for local authorities to insist on the development of a green travel policy before planning permission is given for new commercial developments. It is considered that travel plans can offer real benefits not only to the organisation and its employees, but also the community that surrounds it. It may help to relieve local parking or congestion problems or improve public transport connections across the area. It may also relieve stress on employees through reducing delays or providing the opportunity to cut their travel commitments by working from home on occasion.

For more information on Green Travel see the Department of Transport guide
www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/businessrelatedtransport

To download the World Wildlife Fund report "Travelling Light"

http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/travelling_light.pdf