



PRIFYSGOL  
**BANGOR**  
UNIVERSITY

## **Sustainable Travel and Transport Policy**

### **Introduction**

Bangor University is committed to achieving continual environmental improvement. As set out in our Environmental Management System our significant environmental impacts include the carbon footprint associated with the travel undertaken by our staff and students. Staff vehicular business travel alone is estimated to generate 400 tonnes of carbon dioxide. Commuting to, from and within the University also represents a significant contribution to our carbon footprint. Sustainable forms of transport not only have environmental benefits, they can positively contribute to health and wellbeing, and reduce the impacts on the local community caused by traffic congestion and parking problems. Central Government is also actively promoting sustainable travel. Following pilot schemes in England, the Welsh Assembly Government confirmed in March 2010, that the Mon â Menai area of North Wales was to be awarded "Sustainable Travel Area" (STA) status, the second such zone to be announced in Wales. The consequence of this is £3 million of Assembly Government funding towards sustainable travel initiatives within the area.

All staff and students have a role to play in reducing the environmental impacts of travel, and this policy therefore applies across the University.

### **Policy Statement**

#### **A. Business Travel**

Business Travel is an inevitable requirement in any organisation. We aim to minimise the environmental impacts associated with our business travel requirements by encouraging the following options hierarchy:

- 1) Avoidance of travel by using technology (videoconference / teleconference etc.)
- 2) Travel by public transport / cycling / walking whenever possible
- 3) Travel by low emission, fuel-efficient hire vehicle or University vehicle
- 4) Car share in personal car
- 5) Single occupancy personal car journey

Overseas travel inevitably requires travel by air, however where more sustainable alternatives are available (e.g. Eurostar) they should be considered wherever practicable.

#### **B. Commuting to from, and within the University**

It is accepted that in general, single occupancy car journeys are to the individual, the most convenient means of commuting. However, the greatest travel related impacts arise from these journeys. In order to achieve a shift towards more sustainable modes of transport (i.e. public transport, cycling, walking and car sharing) we will develop a Travel Plan with the overarching objective of providing staff and students with viable alternatives to single occupancy journeys.

The Travel Plan will focus on opportunities for:

- Financial incentives for greater use of sustainable means of transport
- Providing information to staff and students (e.g. public transport timetables, cycle routes etc.) to make their choices 'customer easy'
- Facilitating widespread car-sharing by introducing a University wide car share database
- Improving the quantity and quality of bicycle parking
- Improving the shower and locker facilities for cyclists and walkers
- Providing University pool bicycles
- Introducing an inter-campus shuttle bus

The Travel Plan will also support the planning requirements associated with the future developments of our Estate, as well as providing a basis for potential funding of University projects through the Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Travel Area initiative.

### **Monitoring**

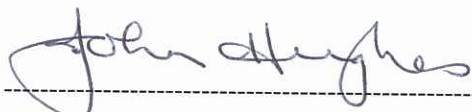
In order to effectively monitor our carbon footprint associated with direct and indirect transport requirements, we will develop a robust methodology for recording emissions associated with both business travel, and commuting (including air travel by overseas students). We will also monitor the effectiveness of videoconference use in reducing travel and thus reducing our carbon footprint.

In accordance with our Environmental Management System, our travel related emissions will be reported publicly in our annual Carbon Dioxide Report on the University's Environmental web pages. The Travel Plan will identify appropriate targets for achieving a modal shift towards more sustainable means of transport, and progress will be measured through an annual Staff and Student Travel Survey. Progress will be reported within our annual Environmental Statement.

Additional information regarding sustainable travel and transport will be published on the University's environmental web pages.

This Policy is subject to the University's Health and Safety, and Financial regulations regarding travelling on University business. The Policy will be reviewed annually by the Sustainability Implementation Group, endorsed by the Sustainability Management Group, and reported to the University Executive.

Signed:



Professor John Hughes, Vice-Chancellor

Date:

7/2/2011