

Transport

Highly Commended:

University of Hertfordshire

- A Beacon For Other Bus Operators

Universitybus - recently re-branded as Uno - was originally set up in 1994 to provide students with an intercampus shuttle. The service has since expanded to 51 modern buses (with an average age of 5 years, well below Government targets) serving 12 routes throughout Hertfordshire and North London. Free shuttles are provided for students between the main campuses at Hatfield as well as from the free Park and Ride that the University provides for students and staff. Staff and students have a choice of paying subsidised fares or getting an annual zone-based pass for other journeys. Although the company is student focused, it also provides a public service, with non-university passengers making up 60% of total bus patronage.

Uno has enabled the University to achieve its travel plan target of raising the number of students commuting by public transport from 38% in 1999 to 27% in 2007. It has also improved recruitment of students from North and North West London. In September 2002 Uno moved to a new purpose built depot located on Hatfield Business Park. Scott Copsey, the University's Travel Plan Coordinator, observes that "the depot has high energy and water efficiency and other environmentally positive features which we hope will act as a beacon to other local bus operators."



University of Sheffield

- The HUMUS Partnership Reduces Car Use

In 2003 the University was instrumental in establishing the HUMUS Partnership to develop sustainable transport solutions to the congestion and parking problems around its campus and adjacent hospital and museum sites. The other partners are Sheffield Teaching and Children's Hospitals, Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust, Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire PTE. The first stage involved travel surveys in each partner to establish baseline information, and the recruitment of a Travel Plan Co-ordinator.

The second stage implemented measures such as common car parking permit criteria and charges (where the University is leading the way by ring fencing the income raised for environmental improvements); additional bus services (including one creating work opportunities in the high unemployment zone of North Sheffield by linking it to the University and Hospital quarter); sustainable transport events and exhibitions; personalised journey planners and discounted public transport ticketing for staff; participation in the South Yorkshire Travelwise Car Share Scheme; pedestrianising, and therefore improving, an area notorious for 'rat running' traffic and being a 'red light district'; and support for cycling by installation of showers and storage facilities, and running awareness events such as Bikers Breakfasts and Dr. Bike Clinics.

For Julie Kiely, the University's Travel Plan Co-ordinator, "working together has given an extra impetus to all the partners. This will continue with a new 5 year collective target of reducing the overall number of single occupancy car trips to our HUMUS sites by 1,800 a day."

Judges' Comments on Sustainable Procurement

"Sustainable procurement is vital as purchased goods and services have great influence on HE's environmental performance. By directing attention to the whole life costs of purchases, it also embodies best purchasing practice. Leeds Met has a prolonged track record of implementation, which is symbolised by the title of Purchasing and Environment Office, and its actions to raise awareness amongst suppliers and internal buyers. The result is better environmental and financial performance - and an improved reputation."