

Case Study

Zero Waste Scotland Commuting Tool Pilot VisitScotland



Zero Waste Scotland has developed a commuting tool to assist organisations to calculate and monitor Scope 3 emissions associated with commuting.

VisitScotland took part in a pilot to test the commuting tool with its staff and to provide feedback to inform future development of the tool.

Background

To date public sector mandatory climate change reporting under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 has primarily focussed on Scope 1 & Scope 2 emissions.

The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 sets out that public bodies will be required to provide in their annual reports

- “Where applicable, targets for reducing indirect emissions of greenhouse gases”

This new requirement (among others) outlined in the Amendment Order 2020 will apply to reports submitted to Scottish Government in November 2022.

The Pilot

VisitScotland invested time in the preparatory phase prior to circulating the survey to staff. Senior Management approval was secured from the outset setting out the benefits of collating commuting data for the organisation in terms of the organisation’s strategic goals. The Internal Sustainability Manager edited the user facing survey adding information to assist with its completion. This was accompanied by a communication

to all staff as to the reason for the survey and the intended use of the collated results. This was further supported by regular communications encouraging survey completion.

‘Sharepoint’ was the chosen platform to share the survey to ensure that all employees could access it.



Figure 1 ZWS user facing survey image

Thank you for the opportunity to pilot this tool. This snapshot gave us our pre-COVID-19 commuting data and will allow us to benchmark against future commuting once staff return to our offices. We look forward to seeing and using the final tool.

Catriona Paterson, VisitScotland

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VisitScotland welcomed the opportunity to pilot the commuting tool with their staff. In terms of Scope 3, focus to date has been on business travel. The organisation is keen to learn more about Scope 3 emissions and to become familiar with other elements of its Scope 3 footprint.

Survey was sent out to 551 employees. Response rate was 47%.

This high response rate was most likely due to the early support by senior management, the inclusion of advice on how to complete the survey and the drip feed communication reminders.

General Observations

- ❖ The survey was user-friendly and quick to complete.
- ❖ The final collated results provided by the tool are very useful and are presented in a format that will be beneficial for both internal and external carbon emissions reporting.
- ❖ The data collated provided insight on car sharing carried out by employees that was previously unknown by VisitScotland.

Benefit & Next Steps

- Scope 3 emissions are complex and can be challenging to measure. Having an 'off the shelf' tool such as this commuter tool available to help measure Scope 3 categories was very much welcomed.

- Participating in this pilot has given VisitScotland the opportunity to take first steps towards examining Scope 3 emissions from employee commuting.
- With staff commuting data now to hand, VisitScotland has evidence to target carbon reduction initiatives associated with the staff commute and support its staff to make low emission travel choices, e.g. employee car sharing incentives.
- In addition, the data collected will also be useful for senior management to inform other policy related decisions e.g. estate rationalisation and the need for facilities at key work locations e.g. bike storage & showers.
- This information has afforded VisitScotland the ability to approximate the scale of emissions associated with staff commuting and what percentage this is of the organisation's current total footprint. This will help guide carbon reduction actions.
- VisitScotland saw the benefits of piloting the commuting tool and the usefulness of the data provided. As a result, VisitScotland plan to carry out annual staff commuting/travel surveys, building up a picture of the associated Scope 3 emissions.

