

Case Study

Zero Waste Scotland Commuting Tool Pilot Skills Development Scotland



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

Skills Development Scotland took part in a pilot to test the commuting tool with a small sample of their staff and provided feedback to inform future development of the tool.

When disseminating the survey, extra information bespoke to SDS roles was included to aid with survey completion.

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

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) ran the pilot with members of two employee engagement forums to gather a sample to indicate whether it would suit their needs for future use.

Excel on ‘Sharepoint’ was the chosen platform.



Figure 1 Zero Waste Scotland user facing survey image

‘It was a great opportunity to be involved in trialling this tool as we already had plans to look into how we can gather commute data. The potential for a tool to be available across the public sector in the future will be valuable’.

Alison Hunter, Skills Development Scotland

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Zero Waste Scotland Commuting Tool Pilot
Skills Development Scotland



Survey was sent out to 130 employees.
Response rate was 25%.

General Observations

- ❖ The tool was easy to use and took the approximated 5 minutes!
- ❖ The inclusion of useful links e.g. to the train mileage calculator was very helpful.
- ❖ The results that the tool provided and presentation are very useful for reporting purposes.
- ❖ Timing of pilot was ideal for SDS as employees were asking about the impact of home working on the organisation's carbon footprint.
- ❖ The data results provided great insight into the likely scale of the whole organisation's commuting footprint.

Benefits & Next Steps

- ❖ SDS has identified in its Climate Change Strategy that it will continue to expand its Scope 3 emissions accounting including calculating its commuting emissions, as part of its net zero journey. Participation in this pilot has been an informative first step.
- ❖ In addition, SDS recognises that Scope 3 emissions are going to become increasingly integral to emissions calculating and future carbon reporting.
- ❖ SDS sees the benefit of preparing now to understand and take responsibility for more of its indirect carbon emissions.
- ❖ SDS's climate change strategy acknowledges that the organisation and its people are key to bringing about both

organisational culture change and maximising its contribution to the national climate ambition. SDS is encouraging colleagues to consider their current work practices. Having information such as up to date commuting data readily available will greatly assist SDS to target initiatives and promote incentives to assist behavioural change, for example increasing the use of low carbon and active travel.

- ❖ During Covid-19 SDS staff were asking about the carbon implications of working from home and how this affected the SDS carbon footprint. SDS was able to extrapolate the information collated as part of the pilot to approximate the associated commuting carbon saving across the organisation.
- ❖ The results from this exercise were very informative as previously the scale of the organisation's commuting emissions was unknown. This exercise has brought that in to sharp focus.
- ❖ The information and learning from this pilot exercise will help inform SDS as to potential future working patterns post Covid-19 from a reduced commuting carbon footprint.
- ❖ SDS welcomed the opportunity to participate in this pilot and looks forward to using the final version of the commuting tool.