



More CO₂ saved every year by Cycle to Work scheme than the total emissions of 24,000 homes

Users of the cycle to work scheme are saving **133,442 tonnes of CO₂** every year, according to new research published by the Cycle to Work Alliance. The survey also found that 87% of those who cycle to work have noticed a direct health benefit from their more active commute.

The Cycle to Work Alliance's *Behavioural Impact Analysis*, which surveyed over 44,500 employees, examined the benefits of the cycle to work scheme and the motivations that drive demand from the users of the scheme, and the employers who offer it.

Users of the cycle to work scheme are saving 133,442 tonnes of CO₂ every year, which is the equivalent of the total annual emissions of 24,000 households or a city larger than Hereford. It is also more CO₂ than that emitted by 76 full Boeing 747s flying around the world - more than the combined fleet of British Airways and Virgin Atlantic's Boeing 747s.

With 87% of cycle to work scheme users noticing a health benefit from their more active commute to work, the research also showed that 97% of employers offering the scheme think it is an important way to encourage a healthier workforce.

The government has set ambitious targets for improving public health, cutting carbon emissions and creating a more sustainable transport system, all of which have to be achieved at a time when public spending is being cut back. The Cycle to Work Alliance's research shows that the cycle to work scheme is helping government and businesses achieve their goals, while at the same time improving employee engagement and supporting the cycling industry.

The Minister for Cycling, Norman Baker MP said:

"I want to support as many people as possible to take to two wheels."

"We have guaranteed to fund cycle training for children through the Bikeability scheme for the rest of this Parliament, and we have made it clear to local authorities in the guidance for our new £560m Local Sustainable Transport Fund that bids for cycling schemes are welcome."

"The benefits of cycling run much deeper than balance sheets or carbon footprints. It's a crucial life skill as well as offering easy, exhilarating exercise. I would therefore like to thank the Alliance for their support of the Cycle to Work scheme and congratulate them on the positive impact their businesses and services have had in generating awareness and raising cycling levels."

-ENDS-

Notes for editors:

- The Cycle to Work Alliance is a group of the leading providers of the cycle to work scheme, including Cyclescheme, Cycle Solutions, Evans Cycles and Halfords.

- The cycle to work initiative is a tax-efficient, and on the whole, salary-sacrificed employee benefit that provides a way of encouraging more adults to take up cycling. Introduced in the 1999 Finance Act, the scheme encourages employers to loan bicycles and cycling safety equipment to employees as a tax-exempt benefit for the purpose of cycling to work. Under the scheme, employers buy cycling equipment from suppliers approved by their scheme administrator, and hire it to their employees. At the end of the loan period, the employer may choose to give the employee the option to purchase the equipment.
- To date over 400,000 people have taken advantage of the scheme, which involves over 2,220 bike retailers and 15,000 employers.
- The survey was conducted between 1st November 2010 and 1st December 2010, by a self-completion online questionnaire. 44,599 employees and 1,233 employers completed the survey. This sample represents 17.2% of the current users of the scheme, and 8.2% of the employers who offer it.
- The full results of the survey can be found here: <http://cycletoworkalliance.org.uk/news.html>
- For more information please see www.cycletoworkalliance.org.uk or contact Alexandra Arikoglu at alexandra@westminsteradvisers.co.uk or 0207 222 9500