

Greener buses tackle UK emissions

11/11/16 Environment

A new generation of low emission buses is already saving 55,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per year and £8m (~€9.3m) from health and environmental budgets in the UK.

A report by the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP), which was commissioned by the sustainable travel group Greener Journeys, has revealed the positive impacts made by the 3,760 certified Low Carbon Emission Buses (LCEB) currently operating in towns and cities across the UK, which use new technologies to help reduce emissions and air pollution.

With LCEBs making up 40% of all new buses sold in 2015, the report estimates that if 100% of new buses were carbon efficient by 2020, the annual savings could increase to 432,000 tonnes of GHG emissions and £248.5m in social benefits.

Claire Haigh, chief executive of Greener Journeys, said: "Tackling transport emissions is one of the most pressing issues facing councils and operators today, and this report clearly shows that investing in clean buses is an integral part of the solution.

"Encouraging more people to switch their car for the bus is crucial to tackling the UK's emissions problem, and thanks to the new range of clean bus technologies available, this type of behaviour change is now more effective than ever."

The project has been supported by the Department for Transport (DFT) and Transport Scotland who have introduced financial incentives and policies to encourage the greater use of LCEBs and, more recently, Low Emission Buses (LEBs) in the industry.

Andy Eastlake, managing director of the LowCVP, said: "The UK's bus sector has made great progress in introducing low emission, efficient technologies over the last decade."

The report was launched at the e-Bus Summit in London, an event organised to introduce the Horizon 2020 ELIPTIC (Electrification of Public Transport in Cities) project.