Actions towards sustainable internal travel

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GreenDependent Institute
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About GreenDependent Institute

- Non-profit and public benefit research and action organization
- Mission: “research, develop and promote sustainable lifestyles”
- A few examples:
Sustainable GreenDependent: walking the talk

• Important to organize our work in accordance with the content we present and promote
  – Need to be credible and consistent

• We have a ‘green management’ and green office system (not certified)
  – Green operations
  – Green procurement
  – Green events
  – Green travel

To read about details:
http://intezet.greendependent.org/en/node/298

What types of travels do we consider?

• Getting to and from work (commuting)

• Travelling to partners, clients, events, etc. within the country

• Travelling outside the country
  – project meetings, conferences, etc.
Green internal travel: basic principles

1. Plan and minimise travel
2. Travel responsibly
3. Keep track of travel
4. Take responsibility for the environmental (climate) impact of travel
5. Spread the word, influence others

1. Plan and minimise travel

- Allow it, and create infrastructure for working from home
- If need to travel, plan so that several meetings can be held on the same day, in the same town, etc.
- Cover cost of public transport for employees
- Encourage and support colleagues to share cars and travel together
- Carefully consider event attendance
  - Especially overseas
2. Travel responsibly

• Cycle and walk
  – Provide infrastructure for those who cycle

• Give preference to public transport
  – cost covered by organization

• Share cars and car pooling
  – Flexibility required by organization:
    e.g. harmonization of travel times and time spent in office between employees

2. Travel responsibly (2)

• Give preference to travel by train over flying
  – Organization needs to be ready to cover cost and time (work can be done on trains)
  – Unusual dissemination opportunities
3. Keep track of travel

- At GreenDependent, we monitor:
  - what required the travel (project and purpose)
  - the route taken and km travelled
  - means of transport
  - CO₂ emission of travel

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4. Take responsibility for environmental (climate) impact of travel

- We plant native fruit trees to compensate for the carbon footprint of most of our project-related travel and events
  - But not yet commuting
5. Spread the word, influence others

- We involve others in our green travel efforts:
  - At all of our events we collect travel data to calculate footprint (distance + means of transport)
  - In international projects we monitor carbon footprint of project meetings
  - When hosting a meeting, we lead by example: organize a green event, calculate and compensate for the meeting carbon footprint, incl. travel

More details (with green event checklist):
http://energise-project.eu/node/1269
http://energise-project.eu/walking-the-talk

To conclude

- Very important to walk the talk and to lead by example to increase our credibility

- Every little counts: even if you cannot yet be very green, start to monitor and account for your travel

- Join initiatives as a group, e.g. Cycle to Work
  - Great for team building as well 😊
THANK YOU!

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