

Green Transport

Staff mobility for greener commuting

-75%

less greenhouse gas emissions for a short trip by bike rather than by car



Why should I act?

National Agencies must “reduce their ecological and carbon footprint, in their daily and long-term practices”, according to the NA Guide. Reaching this target requires taking a close look at daily commuting. Traveling to and from work, for example, accounts for 6% of the European Commission’s carbon footprint¹. Switching from car to bike for just one journey a day saves 1/2 tons of CO₂ emissions per person and per year.

As a short journey by bike rather than by car reduces greenhouse gas emissions by around 75%, National Agencies have much to gain in favoring greener modes of travel. In a joint declaration on cycling, the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission recall that sustainable forms of transport are essential to achieving the EU’s goals of decarbonizing urban transport and achieving zero pollution, with numerous co-benefits².

These new transportation habits promote the health and well-being of employees, leading to improved productivity and long-term savings. Carpooling and co-biking can even improve team spirit. There are still challenges (such as lack of public infrastructure, up-front expenditure or resistance to change), but a well-designed sustainable mobility plan will also improve the National Agency’s image².

Build a team

Identify the key players who can make things happen. Managers, HR, staff representatives and the Green Contact Point are essential. Reach out to motivated colleagues as well. Who is already biking, who is started carpooling?



¹ - https://transport.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/European_Declaration_on_Cycling_en_0.pdf
² - <https://eucg.eu/2022/05/03/pledges-on-staff-commuting-in-the-greening-the-commission-communication/>

Take stock of the situation

Analyze the current situation and the needs.

Does your National Agency provide car or bike parking, showers and changing rooms? What public transports are available on your premises? What are employees' commuting habits and desires? Who already rides electric cars and bicycles?

Assess current internal policies, such as transportation allowances, company car program, teleworking policy and flexible working hours.

Find indicators to measure the effectiveness of your actions, such as the carbon footprint of commuting (calculated using the GHG Protocol³ method), a survey of commuting habits, the Agency's parking budget...

Look for best practices from actors in your country, or from other National Agencies.



Watch the webinar "Greening the Commission" on the SALTO Green Youtube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGEOyeO10dU>



Take action!

Your National Agency can:

- **Install** secure bicycle parking, charging stations for e-bikes or electric cars, areas for changing and showering, a carpooling dashboard...
- **Revise** your parking policy, just like the European Commission⁶.
- **Finance** part of the cost of public transport passes and self-service rented bicycles. Loan bicycles to employees, as 22% of National Agencies already do⁷.

3 - https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards_supporting/Chapter7.pdf

4 - <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jun/12/children-risk-air-pollution-cars-former-uk-chief-scientist-warns>

5 - <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/publications/2022/rise-telework-impact-working-conditions-and-regulations>

6 - <https://eucg.files.wordpress.com/2023/06/eucg-position-mobility-policy-2023.pdf>

7 - https://agence.erasmusplus.fr/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/SaltoErasmus_brochureA4-PAGES.pdf

Get inspired

1- Look for good practice from institutions in your country, or from National Agencies.

- Join networks and participate in sustainable mobility events to learn from experts and peers.
- Find out about the assistance to which you are entitled: fundings, tax exemption, free bicycle loans, training...

2 - Prepare your talking points for negotiation with your managers or colleagues.

- Worry about the pollution peak? You are more exposed to contaminants in a car⁴ than when biking or walking.
- Reduced productivity when teleworking? Studies show that this is not the case⁵.
- No budget for soft mobility? Some NAs already spend a lot through company cars, free parking spaces, payment of mileage expenses...

Proud of your achievements?

Write to

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We will share your good practice on our website.