

Minutes of Safety Group Fife Meeting

Held 11th January 2010 at

**Dunfermline Building Society, Caledonia House
Carnegie Avenue, Dunfermline.**

Present

Colin Sparling	Carnegie College
John Johnston	FMC Technologies
William Millar	Strath Safety
Mark Russell	Dunfermline B. S.
Peter Ager	Fife Council
Mick Graham	Babcock Marine
David Cant	Carnegie College
Duncan McNae	Allsport Consultants
Sheena Johnston	FMC Technologies
Ian Murdoch	Energy Saving Trust

Apologies

Apologies were received from Annemarie Smith, Tom Canning, Dorothy Smith, Alan Harwood, Martin Brown, Ian Norton, John Greenhalgh, David Jones and Linda Bell.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 14th December 2009 were approved.

Chairman's Opening Remarks

DC welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending what was the first meeting of 2010. DC introduced Ian Murdoch and handed the meeting over to him.

Presentation

Ian introduced himself and explained his role with the Energy Saving Trust. The programme is funded by the Scottish Government and has a remit to promote Energy Efficiency, Renewables and Transport.

The Scottish Government has set itself some tough targets and through the Climate Change Scotland Act aims to reduce CO2 emissions by 42% by 2020, leading to a total reduction of 80% by 2050. These targets are more ambitious than those set by the UK Government.

IM commented that with petrol/diesel prices likely to rise, people will have make more use of sustainable alternatives.

The Energy Saving Trust provides a number of best practice advice services, these cover Transport Advice, Travel Plans and Green Fleet Reviews, they also provide advice on Eco-driving

The Travel Plans look at the following areas;

- Reduce employee/visitor car dependency
- Increase use of public transport
- Increase use of walking/cycling
- Economic benefits
- Carbon savings

Consultancy support is provided to meet the needs of the applicant, the service is open to businesses, local authorities, publicly funded organisations. Further details are available by calling 0845 602 1425 or visit www.est.org.uk/fleet/hr

The travel plan assistance is available through a tiered threshold system, i.e. the more employees or visitors the more support available. It ranges from a couple of hours of assistance over the phone to a full blown 10 day audit and report.

Copies of publications and case studies are available at www.est.org.uk

The Green Fleet Review process looks at;

- Environmental review of fleet
- Specify cleaner vehicles
- Improve fuel economy
- Reduce mileage
- Grey fleet

It provides consultancy support to meet the needs of the applicant, it is open to businesses, local authorities, public funded organisations. Again, as above the level of support available is dictated by the fleet size.

It is an educational process, aimed at saving energy by being better informed – Buy cleaner vehicles, drive efficiently and use them less.

At this point Ian displayed a diagram which detailed same make cars with their corresponding CO2 ratings – Ford Focus 1.6TDCI Diesel – 114 CO2/km against a Ford Focus 1.6 Duratec Petrol at 159 CO2/km.

All vehicles will be sold with an energy rating or Fuel Economy rating on it, a bit like buying an electrical appliance. Ultimately the aim is to promote some financial benefits around the business case.

- Lower CO2 = lower mpg = lower fuel costs
- Lower CO2 = lower staff BIK tax = lower employer NIC
- Lower CO2 = lower VED
- Lower CO2 = enhanced capital allowances

We need to consider whole life costs.

Eco – driving campaign. Again its all about education and awareness and breaking bad habits. Here is the top ten eco-driving tips.

1. Check your revs – change up before 2,500rpm (petrol) and 2,000rpm (diesel).
2. Anticipate road conditions and drive smoothly, avoid sharp acceleration and heavy breaking. This saves fuel and reduces accident rates.
3. Use air conditioning sparingly as it significantly increases fuel consumption.
4. Drive away immediately when starting from cold – idling to heat the engine wastes fuel and causes rapid engine wear.
5. Remove roof racks when not in use – they increase drag significantly.
6. Avoid short journeys – a cold engine uses almost twice as much fuel and catalytic converters can take five miles to become effective.
7. Stick to the speed limits and make your fuel go further. At 70mph you could be using 10% more fuel than at 50mph.
8. Plan your journeys to avoid congestion, road works and getting lost.
9. Check your tyre pressure regularly – under-inflated tyres are dangerous and can increase fuel consumption by up to 3%.
10. If you are stuck in a jam, switch off – cutting the engine will save fuel and stop emissions.

Ian highlighted the following website – www.ecodrivescotland.com He went on to discuss how 5% of miles are spent going the wrong way. Male drivers wait 20 minutes before asking, female drivers wait 10 minutes.

Ian went on to discuss some of the alternatives – use more sustainable transport, use video conferencing, encourage car sharing etc. He highlighted the service provided by www.travelinescotland.com or telephone 0871 2002233 the service gives a joined up approach to linking the sustainable travel options.

Ian closed by encouraging everyone to access the services available and to apply for travel plans, green fleet reviews and to practice eco-driving.

DC thanked Ian Murdoch for his presentation and opened the floor for a general discussion. A number of questions followed.

AOB

Finances

Colin Sparling highlighted the Groups finances, a number of individuals have not paid there subs for the current session, he mentioned that he was in the process of changing the Group account with the bank, this will provide more flexibility on finances.

Sharing Best Practice

Colin Sparling highlighted the sharing best practice section and encouraged everyone to share systems and procedures so that others could learn.

DC mentioned that he had details of a new scaffolding system which he would bring to the next meeting.

There being no further business DC thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 8th February, speaker for the evening will be Aileen Simpson, Head of Delivery for the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives.

Mark Russell
Secretary
Safety Group Fife.