



British Geological Survey, Edinburgh

About BGS

The British Geological Survey (BGS) is a partly-funded body which aims to advance geoscientific knowledge of the United Kingdom landmass and its continental shelf by means of systematic surveying, monitoring and research. The BGS headquarters are in Keyworth, Nottinghamshire and they employ around 800 staff. Other centres are located in Edinburgh, Wllingford, Cardiff, Exeter and London.



The Edinburgh office is located within the University of Edinburgh's Kings Buildings Campus on West Mains Road. This office employs nearly 200 members of staff and at the moment nearly 50 of them has the key to the secured bicycle shed.

In October 2005 BGS successfully gained a Cycle Friendly Employer Award granted by Cycling Scotland. BGS was one of the first companies awarded this prize.

Implementation and Benefits

As British Geological Survey is a public sector research organisation, half of its funding comes from government. The whole cost of the scheme, including building the secured bicycle shed, was covered by their internal funds.

BGS promoted its scheme through the internal website for staff, by sending emails and newsletters informing about upcoming events and other useful information. Also a bicycle users group was founded to help and support promotion of the scheme at BGS. The main aims of the scheme were to increase awareness for the staff, reduce usage of privately owned cars and promote cycling within the organisation. Main developer of this scheme and of cycling at the BGS is Kevin Tait.

Implementation:

- Improvement to showers and changing facilities (almost each toilet equipped with showers);



- Secure shed for bicycles;
- Equipment and tools for repairs;
- Help from the more experienced cyclists;
- Bike Breakfasts – three times a year;
- Bicycle Repair Workshops held few times a year with open access to everyone;
- Discounts for staff for equipment and bike purchases in two local shops;
- Tax-free mileage allowance paid when bike is used for business journeys (20p/mile);
- Set up of a bicycle users group;
- Bike rack in front of the building for visitors bikes;
- Car Share Scheme – parking spaces provided for car sharers only; and
- Car Pooling Scheme – company owned cars only used when multiple staff are visiting sites otherwise encouragement of bike use or Public Transport use.



Benefits:

- Increased awareness;
- Healthier and happier staff;
- Improved access to cycle maps;
- 50% increase in cyclist after implementing the scheme;
- More health schemes on site:
 - Health Promotion;
 - Healthy Working Lives;
 - Healthy Eating.
- 14 October 2005 – Cycle Friendly Employer Award; and
- Recycling of unused or unwanted bikes by staff.

Future Plans

Company is planning to develop their scheme by:

- Encourage staff to cycle on a regular basis;
- Regular Bike Breakfasts and Lunches;
- Introduce new staff to the implemented scheme;
- Further increase in bike usage;
- Provide more Cycling Maps and more detailed Public Transport information;
- “Cycle to Work” Scheme – discounts on bike purchases – starting Autumn 2008; and
- Car Pool Scheme – further development of existing scheme.