

Environmental Performance

The primary role of HEFCW is to develop and sustain internationally excellent higher education in Wales, for the benefit of individuals, society and the economy, in Wales and more widely. The 55 staff and Council members who make up the organisation operate from a single shared office building in North Cardiff. Our main direct environmental impact arises from the use of the office building, and business travel. HEFCW has been recording its environmental performance in relation to business travel since 2007-08. This has been supported by the development of an environmental management system and the use of the Sustainable Procurement Assessment Framework. The provision of shared services within our office accommodation has to date prevented us from recording energy use within the building although this has now been addressed and we will be able to report on energy use in future years.

The table and graph below compares CO₂ and mileage recorded in relation to business travel between 2009-10 and 2011-12. From this it can be seen that overall business travel has declined overall although there has been a modal shift to greater use of private cars. Use of rail travel and flights has declined markedly in comparison with the previous year. It should be stressed that given the small size of the organisation these figures can be volatile due to changing work requirements. In 2010-11 we also recorded use of our video conferencing suite as an alternative to travel. This indicated that 53 video conferences were recorded with an estimated saving of over 234 hours of staff time and 9972 miles. In 2011-12 only 26 video conferences were recorded with an estimated saving of 208 hours of staff time and 10249 miles. This suggests that in 2011-12 video conferences were on average used by a higher number of staff per session resulting in similar time and mileage savings despite the significant drop in overall use. The drop in use may be explained by the introduction of a digital telephone system which has facilitated the increased use of teleconferencing although this use is not currently recorded.

	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
	Miles	C02 KG	Miles	C02KG	Miles	C02KG
Private Cars	24326	7092	40785	12195	49439	14362
Rail Travel	57124	5637	43828	4002	31360	2865.
Hire Cars	9224	2605	6706	2138	4889	1180.
Flights	52636	14170	21938	3227	8578	2366
Council Members Private Cars	12885	4638	8879	3100	3917	1410
Council Members Rail	5170	506	6014	517	2017	174
Total	161,365	34,648	128,150	25,180	100,199	22,355

