

Car Club & Electric Vehicle Feasibility Study

Towards Zero Carbon Bute aims to reduce Bute's carbon footprint by 25% during the next year to minimise the island's impact on climate change. It has already been shown that travel to and from, and on, the island is a key source of carbon emissions.

A feasibility study is now underway to investigate the opportunities for low carbon travel. This will include looking at a car club - where a car can be hired for as little as an hour at a time, for personal or business use - and also seeing how practical it is to use electric cars on the island powered from a renewable energy source.

The study will be led by Chas Ball, who has been involved in car club development in Scotland since 2001, when he became responsible for the development of the UK's most successful car club - in Edinburgh.

Currently there is no car hire on the Isle of Bute. Having a low emissions car hire facility would mean that some local people who only have a car for business could consider selling their personal car thereby saving money on running and maintenance costs as well as reducing personal and business emissions. It could potentially reduce the number of vehicles brought by visitors to the island making the island a more pleasant and safe place.

During March 2010, we will be asking for everyone's views and suggestions about how we can achieve low(er) carbon travel. We will be approaching individual residents, businesses, employers, the tourism trade and transport providers.

On Friday 19th and Saturday 20th March 2010, there will be an opportunity to find out more and join in the debate at a series of events, workshops and an exhibition, which will include a demonstration of how a car club car works (you leave the key in the glove box!) and an electric scooter will be on display. For more information, visit: www.tzcb.org.uk

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