

Car Clubs

Saving councils money, cutting carbon emissions

Introduction and background

Action by local authorities and local communities is essential if Scotland is to meet its target of net zero carbon emissions by 2045.

By switching from a pool fleet or a grey fleet (where employees use their own vehicles for work) to one provided by a car club, local authorities can cut carbon emissions and demonstrate leadership in tackling the climate emergency.

With increasing pressure on local government budgets, switching to a car club can also lead to significant savings, which can be reinvested into the delivery of frontline public services.

How car clubs have benefitted other local authorities

- **Highland Council** saved £400,000 in one year when they [replaced their grey fleet with a car club](#), cutting council mileage by 825,000 car miles, travel costs by 15%, and resulting in a 19% cut in emissions.
- **North Ayrshire Council** has saved £396,000 by switching their grey fleet to a car club, [saving 9.1 tonnes in CO₂ emissions every year](#).
- **Aberdeen City Council** [set up a car club in 2012](#) and has seen the number of vehicles grow from 12 to 52 across the city with an annual cost saving of £40,000 per year.
- **Borders Council** switched to a low emission, [55 vehicle car club fleet in 2018](#), and have made a significant reduction in their carbon emissions.

Benefits of car clubs

A number of Scottish local authorities and other public sector organisations such as Police Scotland and the NHS have switched from using pool fleets and grey fleets to a car club - making significant savings and cutting their carbon emissions. Car clubs can:

- Help local authorities reduce their carbon footprint by reducing business miles and cut CO₂ emissions due to the requirements for lower emission vehicles including electric and hybrid models.

- Offer an innovative, cost-efficient solution to business travel - leading to huge savings that can be reinvested into the delivery of lifeline public services.
- Reduce the inhouse admin required as the operator takes on the responsibility for maintaining the vehicles, licence checks and the booking system.
- Support the establishment of a car club for local community use - providing access to shared transport, helping reduce private car ownership and potentially address transport poverty.

How CoMoUK can help you shift your fleet to a car club

CoMoUK (Collaborative Mobility UK) is a charity that is part funded by Transport Scotland to promote all forms of shared transport for the public good. With 20 years' experience of research and development in the shared transport sector, we provide evidence of the social, economic and environmental benefits of car clubs, bike share and ride share. Find out more about our work at como.org.uk.

We have produced a suite of resources to help set up car clubs including detailed case studies. We can:

- Help you decide if a car club could work for your Council and your area.
- Provide detailed advice and guidance about setting up a car club, including connecting you with other local authorities who have successfully implemented car clubs.
- Signpost to, and facilitate setting up meetings, with car club operators who may be able to offer you a trial.
- Provide advice on establishing mobility hubs – spaces specifically designed to support low car lifestyles through the integration of public and shared transport modes.

Contact us for more information

If you would like to find out more about how car clubs could work for your organisation please contact us at scotland@como.org.uk.