

Limerick College of Further Education joins the Smarter Travel Campus Programme

Limerick College of Further Education has joined 22 campuses around Ireland who have signed up to the National Transport Authority's Smarter Travel Campus Programme. Partners of the programme include the University of Limerick, Limerick Institute of Technology and Mary Immaculate College.

The Smarter Travel Campus programme offers Irish Third Level Institutions an opportunity to achieve their own successes, through a free, voluntary package to assist institutions with issues relating to access to, or movement through, their campus, through the promotion of walking, cycling, public transport and carsharing. Resources available include site-specific advice and information from experienced Travel Planners; an online travel survey and analysis; a free group on carsharing.ie; mapping resources; and access to walking and cycling challenges. Benefits of engagement in the programme include reduced costs associated with travel and parking; enhanced green profile; and more active travel by both students and staff.

Editor's note:

The Government's current transport policy *Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future* set out to reverse existing unsustainable transport trends throughout Ireland. It established ambitious targets to reduce the need to travel, to reduce journeys by car and to encourage more sustainable modes of transport. Action 8 set out in *Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future* focuses on encouraging alternative ways of travelling to work and targets the development of workplace travel plans for organisations with over 100 staff.

The Smarter Travel Campus Programme is implemented by the National Transport Authority with funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The programme is aimed at Third Level Institutions seeking to develop Workplace Travel Plans. The Smarter Travel Campus programme was launched in 2013 and is specifically tailored for Third Level Institutions based on the success of the National Transport Authority's Smarter Travel Workplaces programme. Initial results from 10 Partner campuses with more mature travel plans indicate that generally, they are having a positive impact. 7 campuses showed an average percentage decrease of 18% in staff car use, and average percentage decrease of 30% in student car use on the commute.

Other modes increased accordingly, with cycling showing the most significant gains of all – an average percentage increase of 158% for staff and 162% for students in 7 campuses. Further results will be recorded as Partners move through their action plans to implementation and monitoring, as part of the Smarter Travel Campus programme.

The Limerick Smarter Travel (LST) Workplace and Campus Programme is currently being implemented by LST in association with the National

Transport Authority (NTA). This program is specifically tailored for Limerick workplaces and campuses, based on the success of the NTA's Smarter Travel Workplaces programme. Eight of Limerick's largest workplaces and campuses are participating in the programme including University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College and Limerick Institute of Technology. The combined workplaces and campuses in which Limerick Smarter Travel are engaging with totals 29,250 staff and students to date.