

HYDROGEN

Aberdeen City Council's £19m bus hydrogen scheme

The first hydrogen-powered buses have been delivered to Aberdeen City Council as part of its £19m scheme.

Four buses in the ten-strong fleet have arrived in the Granite City – but passengers will have to wait until autumn before trying them for themselves.

Council leader Barney Crockett said the hydrogen bus fleet, the world's largest, will cement Aberdeen's place as a "leading energy city".

He said: "We will have the world's largest fleet of hydrogen fuel cell buses running on the Aberdeen's streets, which will help us to not only realise

our aspiration of becoming a world-leading city for low carbon technology and maintain our position as a leading world energy city.

"This is the first step in a very important demonstration project which will help inform the growth and development of hydrogen technologies and the hydrogen industry – as well as a strong hydrogen economy in Aberdeen."

The fleet, which will be operated jointly by First and Stagecoach, will be supplied by Scotland's first commercial-scale hydrogen refuelling station, based at Kittybrewster in Aberdeen.



Aberdeen City Council will run 10 hydrogen-powered buses as part of its £19m scheme

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ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Asda to get on-site LNG refuelling station

A new dedicated dual-fuel LNG refuelling station will be built at Asda Logistics Services' (ALS) recently opened chill distribution centre in Avonmouth, near Bristol to support the supermarket's fleet of 50 dual-fuel Volvo trucks.

The station incorporates the latest 'zero loss' refuelling technology, developed by BOC, a member of The Linde Group. This uses cryogenic cooling to 'temperature-condition' the fuel just prior to dispensing.

The refuelling station is the latest development in Asda's transport sustainability strategy, which includes a target to reduce emissions from its transport fleet by 60 per cent (between 2005 and 2015). The new depot

at Avonmouth features a range of carbon and energy efficiency initiatives, including rainwater harvesting, combined heat and power, occupier lighting and reducing its CO₂ emissions – the latter in line with the distribution team's own mantra calling for 'fewer and friendlier miles'.

Corinne Murphy, National Fleet Manager for Asda Logistics Services commented: "Alternative fuels are an important part of Asda's green agenda and working with BOC and Volvo will help us deliver our 10 per cent absolute carbon footprint reduction by 2015."



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LowCVP's Andy Eastlake Celebrating green growth

There was very encouraging news on the low carbon car front this month when the SMMT announced that average new car CO₂ emissions fell to around 128g/km in 2013, down 3.6 per cent on the previous year and comfortably below the EU's 2015 target of 130g/km.

The industry – in the UK context at least – now has two extra years to focus on delivering the recently agreed 95g/km EU target for 2020.

SMMT calculations show that the total UK car parc now emits 15 per cent less CO₂ than it did ten years ago; good news in the context of climate change and good news for drivers and fleet managers who have significantly lower fuel bills than would otherwise have been the case.

While new car CO₂ emissions are down by almost 30 per cent since 2000, fuel efficiency has improved by a hugely impressive 42 per cent over the same period. (CO₂ emissions and fuel economy are closely tied; the variation is in part due to changes in fuel choices.) The SMMT report clearly highlights the fact that car buyers and fleet users now have much more choice when it comes to low carbon and alternatively-fuelled vehicles (AFVs); there's been a threefold increase in the number of plug-in models on the market in the last three years alone.

Moreover, as we've succeeded in fuel efficiency improvement and CO₂ reduction over the last decade, the automotive industry itself is proving to be a UK industrial success story.

Indeed Mike Hawes, SMMT's Chief Executive, speaking at the launch of the 2013 New Car CO₂ report stated that: "The motor industry has become the poster child of the UK economic recovery, delivering both jobs and growth."

It's clear that a collaborative approach to policy making has been a success story.

We'll be helping to tell a part of that story at a Sustainability Hub event, being held in association with the LowCVP, in Westminster on April 10, featuring Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander.

This (free) event will be a discussion around the theme: 'Green and growth: we can have both – lessons from road transport and other sectors'.

The Sustainability Hub event will be a little taster for the LowCVP's annual conference in the summer which will showcase a report we are about to commission which will tell a lot more of the story about how and why the UK auto sector has managed to slash emissions, while simultaneously increasing the rate of investment, delivering growth and jobs over the last decade.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.lowcvp.org.uk/events or @theLowCVP on Twitter