



Rail Sustainability Summit

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Department
for Transport

Sustainability and DfT Rail Group

- Sustainability is a core Departmental objective – part of the Single Department Plan
 - The role of transport in meeting the government’s objectives on the environment and public health.
 - Addressing climate change through cutting carbon emissions
 - Reducing localised pollution that causes air quality problems
 - Promoting active and healthy lives to tackle obesity
- Within DfT Rail Group we are fostering a culture where sustainability is pervasive in everything we do, and not treated as something separable
- Our policies are guided by the 10 RSSB Rail Sustainable Development Principles.



What we are currently doing

- Actively promoting sustainability through our rail franchising programme
 - Mandatory for all bidders to submit a Sustainable Development Strategy
 - Require bidders to set out how the Rail Sustainable Development Principles will be embedded
 - Encourage bidders to improve workforce skills and awareness to promote industry sustainability
 - Set baseline environmental targets, and reward bidders who set out innovative proposals to exceed these
 - Encourage bidders to set out how they will improve sustainable transport options for customers to access the railway
 - Improving access to the network for customers with reduced mobility and other accessibility issues
- We are adopting international standards of best practices into our Franchise Agreements
 - ISO 14001 (environmental management)
 - ISO 50001 (energy management)
 - ISO 55001 (asset management)
 - BREEM certification

What we are currently doing

- We are encouraging and funding innovation programmes to identify and develop more sustainable practices
 - £7.9m funding competition launched to develop improvements to the railway
 - Supporting a programme of 'first of a kind' demonstrators
 - East Coast franchise to commit 1% of revenue to innovation, similar commitment in Greater Anglia and Northern
 - Upcoming 'Air 5' – DfT/Innovate UK competition focussing on minimising disruption to train services and delivering intelligent trains
- Working with Network Rail to embed sustainability into the improvement programme and major projects
 - The GRIP process covers safety and incorporates supply chain and financial sustainability
 - Could be more explicitly focused on environmental and wider sustainability considerations

What challenges does the future hold?

- Minimising and mitigating our impact on the environmental and maintaining rail as a leader in green and sustainable journeys
 - **We will need to continue to innovate**
- Changing demographics, customer behaviours and needs
 - **Urbanisation, ageing population, more mobile customers, greater range of accessibility needs**
- The rapid development of disruptive technologies, such as connected and autonomous vehicles
 - **Embracing MaaS and opening rail to the outside world**
- Supporting the wider growth of our communities, including housing and commercial development
 - **Looking beyond the red line and involving local stakeholders**
- Winning the case for long-term investment
 - **We need to clearly demonstrate the long-term value of investing in sustainable assets**
- Ensuring sustainability becomes as ubiquitous as safety
 - **Industry leaders need to become visible champions leading a culture change**

What opportunities does the future hold?

- There are a number of opportunities
 - Lead the transport industry in sustainability
 - **Support the economic growth and success of the country by exporting best practice internationally**
 - Rail is a growing industry
 - **As the network expands, there is an opportunity to develop and introduce sustainable new technologies**
 - Positioning rail as part of a holistic low carbon journey
 - **Ensuring that rail remains an attractive and preferred mode of travel for customers (including EV charging at stations)**
 - Developing a strong domestic supply chain
 - **Using the power of procurement to drive sustainable outcomes**
 - Using new technology to deliver an excellent experience to existing and new customers
 - **Understanding and responding to the differing needs of passengers, including those with disabilities**