

Environmental Plan – Overview

OBJECTIVES

- To introduce performance standards which will meet Government standards including standards concerning greenhouse emissions by buses as defined by the Passenger transport Act, 1990, as amended.
- To comply with the Standards required by the Transport for NSW requiring the preparation of the Environment Plan.
- To meet the contractual requirements of the OMBSC to prepare an Environmental Action Plan and to report annually on performance, based upon certain performance measures reflected in the OMBSC's service Quality Index.
- To meet all statutory obligations relating to environmental protection.

GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS ACTION PLAN

Vehicles - Select for optimal fuel efficiency

Fuels - Select for lowest greenhouse gas emissions

Maintenance - Regular maintenance enhances fuel efficiency performance

Training - Good driving practice (such as smooth acceleration) improves fuel efficiency

Operational practice - Reduce idling

Management systems - Record fuel use against vehicles and drivers

Optimise scheduling - Reduce distances traveled with few passengers

Vehicle turnover - High vehicle turnover enhances fuel efficiency

Wind resistance - Choose aerodynamic designs for coaches

COMPLIANCE MEASURES – ACTION PLAN

- Comply with the Fleet Procurement Specification Guidelines.
- Operate buses to manufacture's specifications with reasonable allowance for wear and tear.
- Achieved NSW Clean Fleet accreditation.
- Use the Asset Management Plans to ensure compliance will comply with average age requirements for Contract Buses and that, by the end of the Contract Term, the maximum age of each Contract Bus does not exceed 25 years.
- Support for retrofit technology (exhaust catalysts, particulate filters), as soon as cleaner fuels are reasonably available – having regard to cost and implementation time.
- Consider involvement in the Federal Government's Greenhouse Challenge – i.e. Commitment to making an active contribution to reducing greenhouse gases by measures such as energy and efficient resource management.
- Consider a program to gain ISO 14001 accreditation to ensure regulatory compliance with new and existing environmental legislation and to promote continual environment improvement.
- Provide driver training programs that foster a sense of 'ownership' for good vehicle driving practices to:
 - Prevents pollution at the source. This includes safe, economical, environmentally friendly and energy saving driving techniques. Those elements of driver behavior related to gear shifting, speed choice, and acceleration and deceleration have the greatest influence on the fuel consumed. There is evidence that properly trained drivers can reduce fuel consumption by at least 10 to 15 percent when consistently applied, in which vehicle pollution can also decline significantly.
 - Increase comfort levels. Driver training to reduce sudden acceleration, heavy braking, higher centrifugal forces in corners, etc. can produce higher ride comfort for passengers and lower levels of wear and tear.
 - Increase road safety. Driver training contributes to cooperative traffic awareness, while anticipatory, defense driving without unnecessary braking and accelerating contributes reduced accidents.
- Evaluate each driver's driving practices in relation to safety, economy and comfort on a continuing basis.
- Introduce a policy to minimise idling at the kerb in built up areas.