



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENT

Glasgow City Council

Green City – Greening food deliveries in Glasgow: Bho Glaschu Le Gradh “From Glasgow with Love”

Greencity Wholefoods, Scotland’s largest worker co-op wholesaler, has started delivering food to cafes, restaurants, and retailers in an electric powered trike. In an effort to reduce diesel pollution in Glasgow the company is trialling the trike this summer. The Icenis trikes are made in Wiltshire and can take loads up to 250kg. As the company is run by its workforce on an equal pay equal say basis, reducing emissions and plastic use were the two main actions discussed at the company general meeting.

Greencity Wholefoods, established in 1978, employs 56 people, has been addressing its carbon footprint in recent years. The company has installed solar panels at its distribution base in Dennistoun, Glasgow, and is in the process of retrofitting all its existing lighting to LEDs. The e-cargo trike was funded through a grant of £15,000 in 2019/20 from Glasgow City Council’s Co-Operative and Social Enterprise Fund.



Glasgow, the 'Dear Green place', has the highest levels of PM2.5s in the country, with a concentration of 16 micrograms per cubic metre. The main cause of these are particulates from diesel engines. The World Health Organisation's recommended limit value for particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns (PM 2.5) is 10 micrograms per cubic metre of air.

In 2016, along with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland estimated that ambient air pollution causes 40,000 premature deaths, over 6 million sick dates and an estimated social cost of £22.6 billion per year.

Glasgow introduced Low Emission Zones in 2018 with Phase 2 due to be introduced in 2023, so looking at alternative distribution models for inner city deliveries is essential. Chris Wallace, who had the idea to trial the e-cargo trike, said:

'It's great Greencity has supported the idea, and if we can make a success of delivering goods in e-cargo trikes in Glasgow, we would then look to expanding delivery options in other cities across Scotland and Northern England. Communities deserve clean air and this is one method that could help mitigate pollution. We need to see more businesses adapt to create a more resilient society.'

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