

BWG-P-06-01

Chair of the Bus Working Group

The Partnership was established in 2003 to accelerate the shift to low carbon vehicles and fuels and derive benefits for UK companies. It is a multi-stakeholder forum drawn from car manufacturers and fuel suppliers, major fleet operators, environmental and consumer groups, academics and government. We presently have over 190 members.

The Partnership mission is to: *accelerate a sustainable shift to low carbon vehicles and fuels in the UK and thereby stimulate opportunities for UK businesses.* From this four overarching aims have been defined:

- 1. Facilitating cross-sectoral engagement between industry and other stakeholders with the purpose of:**
 - Developing collaborative initiatives which develop the market for low carbon vehicles and fuels
 - Building understanding and consensus regarding the optimum pathways to low carbon road transport
 - Influencing Government and other decision makers on the future direction of policy and optimum delivery mechanisms.
- 2. To encourage research, demonstration and commercialisation of low carbon automotive technologies in the UK and assist UK businesses participate in emerging markets**
- 3. To contribute towards the setting, and achievement, of UK Government's targets for carbon reduction from the road transport sector.**
- 4. To facilitate an effective flow of information within and between industry and other stakeholders to:**
 - Raise awareness of recent developments and new opportunities
 - Improve understanding of key issues
 - Increase stakeholder knowledge of the mission of the Partnership and its achievements.

The LowCVP is specifically focused on the task of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from road transport. However, we recognise that other environmental and societal issues are also important and sustainable development balances these concerns with the need for economic development and profitable businesses.

The Partnership undertakes specific membership activities to both encourage the supply and raise demand for low carbon vehicles and fuels. We also provide advice to key decision makers, including Government, on the priorities to stimulate market development. The Partnership also undertakes research to improve understanding of the issues, such as recent work examining driver attitudes and barriers to the purchase of low carbon cars.

Bus Working Group

The Bus Working Group was established at the start of the Partnership. Its initial activities focussed upon defining a “Low Carbon Bus” (30% below the fleet average for the size of vehicle) and testing procedures. The work formed the basis of the Low Carbon Bus Programme that is awaiting state aid approval from the EC.

In the last 6 months the Group has been developing a route map to the powering future vehicles strategy 2012 bus target of sales of 600 low carbon buses per year. The work considers:

- Technology options
- Costs and necessary incentives
- Regulatory, fiscal and policy barriers
- Opportunities and early adopter markets – including how to stimulate support from local authorities
- Forecasts of future sales

The work will feed into the review of the Powering Future Vehicles Strategy. The work is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2006. The direction and focus of future activities has not been finalised. One proposal is to hold a number of seminars and other activities to stimulate interest in low carbon buses amongst key groups identified by the road map.

The Group is scheduled to meet 3 times in 2006:

- 7 March
- 12 July
- 1 November

The role of the Chair is not onerous:

- Discuss and agree the agenda of meetings with the Secretariat
- Chair meetings
- Support and encourage the delivery of work programme items – although individual group members or the Secretariat will be responsible for delivery of specific activities
- Provide input to and agree with the Secretariat and Steering Group the work programme of the Group
- Assist the Secretariat in the finalisation of documents prior to their submission to the Board for approval
- Attend Steering Group meetings as representative of the Bus Working Group - the LowCVP Steering Group meets 4 times per year
- Occasionally to present items to the board relating to substantive items of completed work by the Working Group (not sure in practice this has ever happened for the Bus Group).

The skills and personal attributes of Chairs of Working Groups should be:

- An ability to chair meetings effectively - particularly in the context of LowCVP to ensure all views are heard and recognised
- An ability to develop consensus and encourage compromise within the group
- A commitment to the low carbon agenda
- Respected within the industry and by Government
- Ability to work constructively with others – particularly the Secretariat.