

Carshareleeds.com
University of Leeds Car sharers

Leeds City Council is re-invigorating the cities car share scheme to encourage employees to think and act more environmentally friendly. Car sharing is designed to reduce travel costs, congestion and pollution to the environment and commuters to Leeds. The scheme can be accessed over the internet at www.carshareleeds.com and it enables employees to share lifts to any destination. Anyone can register their journeys on the website for free and the system will tell them if anyone else is travelling in the same direction and at the same time. The website then allows the users to contact each other via the websites email connection and allowing them to decide how the journey and costs will be shared.

After hearing about the scheme on the University of Leeds intranet website in January 2007 John, a Senior IT Project Manager at the University of Leeds, joined the scheme and within a week the car sharing system had suggested several possible car sharing travel companions. The best journey match suggested by CarshareLeeds.com was Brian's. John made contact with Brian, a Print Buyer also at the University of Leeds, by email. These car sharers now make the return journey from Brighouse to the University of Leeds 5 days a week alternating who drives each week. John and Brian, who both drove to work separately before joining the scheme are feeling the benefits of car share "the scheme works very well indeed it obviously saves me money on fuel, but it also saves wear and tear on me and the car" says John. So far John and Brian have saved £1,600 and 3.40 Tonnes of CO₂. If either of them are unable to car share at the last minute or needs to leave work early they communicate and plan alternative ways to and from work that are accommodating. "It has happened, but only once in a year, we communicated with each other and looked to see if plans could be changed, but if not there is always the option of public transport" informs Brian.

If you feel that car sharing is for you and would like to save money and do your bit for the environment give it a try. There are thousands of members' including those on the Leeds site waiting to car share. The scheme is free and easy to use and if you are successful and find a travel companion it will save you money, time, congestion and reduce pollution.

John and Brian are regular car sharers.

