

## **THE BIOBUS SPENDS ITS BIRTHDAY AT SCHOOL!**

- **Successful carbon reduction project celebrates its first birthday**  
*(not bad for a scheme that was only meant to run for six months!)*
- **School Pupils get involved with groundbreaking biobus initiative**
- **Cleaner fuel saves almost 1000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> as carbon emissions cut by 80%**
- **Green incentive scheme exchanges recycled oil for discounted bus travel**
- **Householders recycle more than 30 tonnes of used cooking oil at local authority facility**

For the past year there have been eight vehicles in Kilmarnock running on 100% biodiesel manufactured from used cooking oil and other food industry by-products, which are from sustainable sources that do not involve the destruction of natural habitats or compete with the human food chain.

This cleaner fuel project has cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the buses by 80%, removing over 1,000 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere.

Stagecoach issued 5,000 free containers to householders on the Service 1 route, which runs from Stewarton to Darvel via Kilmarnock, to allow them to recycle their used cooking oil in return for discounted bus travel. In twelve months, more than 30 tonnes of used cooking oil has been taken to East Ayrshire Council's recycling plant at Western Road, a 100% increase on the volume normally recycled at the facility.

Local schools and other groups have taken a keen interest in the Bio-bus project. Senior managers from Stagecoach have worked closely with local primary and secondary schools along the route, to explain the project to pupils as part of their environmental studies. On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October Sam Greer, the Managing Director of Stagecoach West Scotland and Sarah Longair, the Operations Director, visited Kilmaurs Primary and, as a birthday treat, brought the bright green Bio Bus into the school playground!

Sarah Longair said: "We are thrilled at the reaction of the pupils who have done some amazing drawings of the biobus... so good in fact, that we have used them in our marketing!"

Sam Greer Managing Director of Stagecoach West Scotland, said: "The Bio-Bus project has captured the imagination of local people, and the community has really got behind the scheme.

"We have delivered a truly sustainable partnership solution to the challenge of climate change. The local community, a forward-thinking transport operator, the fuel industry and local government are all working together to protect the environment.

"More than 600,000 passengers have used the Bio-bus service, helping to cut their own carbon footprint, and we are a long way toward reaching our goal of running a 100% carbon neutral service.

Michelle Fleming, Acting Head Teacher, Kilmaurs Primary School said

"This whole project was started up by a simple question from a child who asked "Could we find out more about the Bio Bus that drives through Kilmaurs?" So we arranged for the bus to visit as part of our Eco Week in May. All children were allowed to get on the bus and listen to a talk about what made this bus special. We had a whole school competition to design an informative poster to promote the service. Our children were very enthusiastic about this project and can not believe that their designs will now be used on the real Bio-Bus. It is vital to teach our children about environmental issues and how they can do their part to protect the planet. Our involvement with Stagecoach West Scotland's Bio-Bus scheme has helped our children to develop their knowledge and understanding of sustainability and the importance of recycling in a real life context that they see every day on their way to school. It has been great FUN."

The biobus will celebrate its official birthday on November 24<sup>th</sup> and a special 'recycling day' will be held in Kilmarnock bus station in its honour. Thanks to our partnership with East Ayrshire's pioneering refuse department, you will be able to bring your old batteries, mobile phones, ink cartridges and other items along to the bus station for recycling. Containers to recycle cooking oil will be available on the buses in the lead up to the birthday celebration.

For more information contact –

[Allan.henry@stagecoachbus.com](mailto:Allan.henry@stagecoachbus.com)