

Pedal power

Twenty seven Staff at Muntons, the maltster and malted Ingredient company, have moved over to pedal power for their journey to work and back in a move to get fit, save money and, whilst they are about it, save the planet too!

Twenty from the Stowmarket, Suffolk plant and another seven from the Bridlington, Yorkshire maltings have taken advantage of the Government sponsored 'bike to work' scheme and bought new bicycles worth up to £1000 each with payments staggered over 12 months and tax free.

Muntons estimate that the move to cycle power will reduce car journeys to work and back by 31,000 miles each year – that's further than travelling to the other side of the world and back again! Or, looking at it another way, will reduce carbon emissions by over 4 ½ tonnes of carbon each year.

In all Muntons staff have invested over £15 thousand on bicycles, all purchased from local specialist cycle stores, Elmy cycles in Ipswich, Suffolk and Cyclelife, Bridlington, Yorkshire – an average of £575 per bike.



Photo: from left: Emerson Prime, Jamie Clarke, Ian Dickinson and Ben Faggetter

On average each member of staff will save over £500 in car running costs every year by moving over to pedal power - and get fit at the same time. Couple this with the environmental benefits and its win, win, win.

When the scheme was introduced last year Muntons saw 12 employees taking up the offer and switching from the car to a bike. The feedback was so encouraging that they decided to run the scheme this year as well and were staggered by the response. Now a total of thirty nine staff have taken up the cycle-to-work challenge since it was first offered.

Muntons have erected a purpose built cycle shed to securely house these new cycles whilst employees are at work. Alan Ridealgh, Managing Director of Muntons, commented "We take our environmental responsibilities very seriously and were delighted with the positive response to this initiative. Not only does this have environmental benefits but we have a fitter workforce too."

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