

Say Yes To Less

Traffic - Pollution - Congestion

December 2003



**Friends of
the Earth
Scotland**

Edinburgh Council is developing proposals to transform the city's transport system, including the introduction of congestion charging. As an environmental organisation we have campaigned for years for something to be done about the rising levels of traffic in Edinburgh. Friends of the Earth Scotland were the first organisation to carry out air pollution testing proving that Edinburgh's air quality affected residents' health.

Why action is required:

Climate Change

- The transport sector accounts for 23% of climate changing carbon dioxide emissions.
- Road traffic is one of the fastest growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

Air Pollution

- Air pollution from cars kills 240 people in Edinburgh each year.
- Without action Edinburgh is likely to breach air quality standards in several city centre locations.

Traffic volume and congestion

- The population of the Lothians is projected to increase by nearly

50,000 between 2000 and 2015.

- Without action, traffic volumes in Edinburgh are expected to increase 30% by 2021.
- A third of small firms in Scotland claim that road congestion is seriously damaging their business.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



2003

2006?

**Say YES
to LESS**

What is the solution?

We believe that congestion charging would make a real difference to all who work and live in the city resulting in:

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Campaign Briefing

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- **Decreased traffic levels and safer roads:**

The Scottish Executive estimates that there will be a 13% decrease in traffic if the charging proposals are implemented - compared to a 12% increase by 2006 and 30% increase by 2021 if nothing is done.

- **Improved public transport:**

All of the money raised from the charge will be used to markedly improve transport across South-East Scotland - this money will be in addition to existing public sources of transport funding.

The congestion charge will make available approximately £900 million over 20 years to invest in transport improvements including:

- South Edinburgh tram
- Further tram development
- Frequency improvements of buses throughout South East Scotland
- Further bus priority measures
- City centre environmental treatment
- Cycle network expansion and foot-path maintenance
- Expanded community transport
- Improvements to safety and security on buses and trains
- Grants to reduce pollution from buses and taxis.

Money raised from people travelling into Edinburgh from a neighbouring authority will be spent on improving transport links between that authority's area and Edinburgh, with approximately 55% spent in Edinburgh and 45% in the rest of the South East Scotland area.

Without raising this money these investments simply will not happen. The principal beneficiaries of course will be the 46% of Edinburgh's households who have no access to a car.

The London Congestion Charge Experience

In February 2003 London introduced congestion charging. The results so far demonstrate that:

- Within six months of introduction there has been a 16% reduction in traffic entering the zone and a reduction in congestion of more than 30%.

- 49% of businesses surveyed in London believe the scheme is working with only 16% feeling that it is failing.

Say YES to an Edinburgh Congestion Charge

There are many details in Edinburgh Council's proposals that we want to make sure they get right. However, this is an initiative which can deliver the reduction in pollution and congestion that Edinburgh needs. It is important that we speak up in favour of the principle rather than allow those who would prefer nothing to get in the way of car use to dominate.

Friends of the Earth Scotland will be supporting Edinburgh Council's proposals for congestion charging and we need your help to do this. Please contact us if you would like to find out how you can assist in ensuring Edinburgh opts for congestion charging.

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