



Emma #lovemybus blog 2

The #lovemybus champions are taking the bus for a whole year from Kilmarnock or Ayr to Glasgow and reporting back on their experiences. The champions will share what taking the bus means for their daily routine and the stories and anecdotes that they find on their journey. Emma began the campaign by saying she chooses the bus because it is convenient, cheap and simple

An easy way to do my bit for the environment

1. What is your main motivation for choosing bus?

Originally, I took the train, but it was three times more expensive than the bus and the car was more expensive as well. So, it started with that, but my motivations are now three-fold for taking the bus:

- It is stress-free.
- It is good for the environment and an easy change to make.
- The community feel of taking the bus. This is now my third year taking the bus, and so I see some friendly faces. If I feel I am late and see some people I recognise it's nice because I know I am actually on-time.

2. Research suggests that those who choose bus over car can enjoy more me-time, do you think that is the case?

Yeah, definitely, I almost always do work on the way in, but on the way home I always relax, listen to music or podcasts. It is in that time after I finish at uni, but before I get home that it is really nice and helps with my work-life balance. When I had to drive, I found it really stressful, especially in the dark and the rain at this time of year.

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3. How does it make you feel to contribute to reducing pollution/ congestion and greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change?

Initially the environment was never really a top reason for me choosing the bus but more recently it has become one. It is just such an easy way to do my bit for the environment, as I don't have to do anything apart from get on the bus instead driving. I also now do the five-minute walk to the bus stop which is one less small car journey each day. But since taking the bus walking has become more of a habit, like a walk a lot more in the rest of my life. I now know that it is quicker for me to walk the 10 minutes to the high street on a cold day than defrost the car and drive there.

4. Is there one thing that would improve your journey further?

From my point of view there is nothing really from the bus side of things. The one thing that does bug me is the amount of litter people leave behind and it's not the driver's fault. But most people just seem to think, 'it's only one thing', but if 13 people do that then it piles up quite quickly. So, it is just about making sure that people know their litter is their responsibility.

5. Will you be choosing bus over the festive period?

Yes, definitely. I have a day off uni tomorrow so my partner and I are going to head up to the Christmas Markets in Glasgow, and we will take the bus because that way we can both have a Christmas cocktail! We could take the train, but the bus is comfier, and I know the driver so it makes for a nicer experience.

6. What would be your one recommendation to others to choose bus over car?

We had two cars and we just weren't using one with me taking the bus everyday, so we sold it. And that has saved us running costs, and insurance which will give us a little more holiday money. I think there is still a stigma around people who take the bus, that they only use it if they cannot afford a car, but there are so many other benefits of using the bus.

7. Do you have any other bus stories you would like to share?

The uni bus is getting a lot busier and it's not just students on it. So, I really like talking to people at the bus stop, especially the older generation that I did not see on that bus before as it can really break up your day. It is certainly a lot busier than this time last year which is nice.

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