

'Making a Mark'

Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

The Co-operative Business Telecoms

The Co-operative Business Telecoms is the UK's only co-operative telecoms provider. Our unique democratic structure within the market makes us the first choice for hundreds of charitable and ethically minded organisations throughout the UK. With no external shareholders we reinvest our profits into worthwhile causes and making sure our customers get the best prices.

The money we make goes towards improving our service, rewarding our members and helping worthwhile projects.

We believe in the power of business to bring about a social change where society profits. At the request of our members we set up a Development Fund to support the growth of co-operatives and social enterprises around the country.

The Social Enterprise Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to provide 'social impact statements', which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/environmental objectives.

Below are examples of how **Co-operative Business Telecoms** is Making a Mark, striving to make a difference to society:

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Social inputs – promoting sustainable travel options

We provide bicycles free of charge for the use of our employees for commuting and for business journeys. Our Manchester employees have been particularly keen to take up this offer.

We also offer a mileage payment for cycling and walking on business journeys.

Social outputs – increased use of public transport

We have continued our policy to encourage the use of public transport for business journeys, rather than cars.

During the year under review, **76%** of journeys were made by less environmentally-damaging transport modes (e.g. rail, bus, tram, tube, cycling or walking), up from 73% last year.

Social outcomes – reducing climate change

We pay a voluntary levy to offset all the carbon dioxide emissions resulting directly from our activities, as well as from the activities of the upstream telecoms providers whose networks we utilise in the provision of our telephony service.

The levy is being paid to Pure Leapfrog, a charity formed from a merger of two charities, Pure the Clean Planet Trust and Carbon Leapfrog, who each shared a vision of reducing climate change by supporting community-led low carbon projects.



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