



First Aberdeen Hydrogen Bus Project

The environment is extremely important to First and as a company we are constantly striving to reduce our energy usage and waste recycling targets – therefore we were delighted when we were asked to be involved in the Hydrogen Bus Project in early 2013.

First Aberdeen is launching the buses on the X40 route – the Park and Ride service that serves Kingswells, Bridge of Don and the City Centre. The X40 route is being extended into Dubford to serve the new Scotia Homes development and currently runs at a very convenient 15 minute service at peak times.

The four buses running on the X40 route feature a hydrogen fuel cell connected to an electric drive motor and a regenerative braking system which means zero emissions with only water vapour coming out of the exhaust. Ten tanks in the roof store 40kg of hydrogen gas – enough to run a bus for up to 260 miles.

First Aberdeen's Training Academy led by Training Manager Norman Wood has been briefing volunteer drivers on the starting procedure, how to fill the tanks and safety mechanisms as they also drove the vehicles to become comfortable with the controls.

First has always been keen to drive green, and in addition to the 4 new hydrogen buses due for launch in early 2015, two years ago we introduced 26 new micro-hybrid buses that are among the most fuel efficient in the world. The micro-hybrid buses are also lighter than a conventional single deck bus and, together with advanced engine technology, are around 30% more fuel efficient.



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David Phillips, Managing Director of First Aberdeen, said: "We are delighted to be a partner in this exciting and ground-breaking project for Aberdeen. The hydrogen-powered vehicles will be a fantastic addition to the city and will help support our ongoing efforts to improve services and encourage more people to swap the car for the bus.

"They will complement the micro-hybrid vehicles added to the First Aberdeen last year, one of the world's most fuel efficient and environmentally friendly buses. We're looking forward to welcoming customers on board soon."

Engineering Manager Dave Gutcher has been involved since the very beginning and is excited to attend the launch and see the buses on the road for the first time.

