



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Ministry for Environment
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PRESS RELEASE

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EARTH DAY 2007

Sunday 22 April is Earth Day.

Once again this year the Government will be celebrating Earth Day in conjunction with Friends of the Earth and other NGO's.

The slogan for this year's event is 'A Call For Action On Climate Change' to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂). In this connection the Government would like to encourage as many people as possible to make use of public transport, walk or cycle to their places of work in order to encourage a reduction in traffic numbers and emissions. As an example, if we were to say that 6% of approximately 20,000 active licenses travel to work a distance of one mile, this would then equate to 1200 individuals. It is said that a mile saved in travel is the equivalent of one pound in weight of carbon dioxide. Therefore, 1200 people travelling one mile for six days a week, 52 weeks in a year would produce 374,400 pounds of CO₂ in a year, or the equivalent of 160 tons of CO₂. It is for this reason that we could all join efforts in reducing our dependency on our private car use, thereby reducing carbon dioxide emissions, whilst adopting healthier lifestyles.

The Gibraltar Bus Company has very kindly offered again this year to provide a free bus service except for Route 9 (frontier) throughout the day on Saturday 21st April, and it is hoped that as many people as possible will make use of this excellent service.

Households too have an important role to play in tackling climate change as they account for considerable energy consumption and carbon emissions. The Government is keen to take this opportunity to raise awareness of the benefits that energy efficient measures, such as the use of energy saving bulbs and Energy Star label electronic appliances, both have in reducing emissions and the household electricity bill.

The Minister for the Environment, the Hon J J Netto said that Earth Day is one of the world events organised by the UN. This serves to highlight environmental matters of concern throughout the planet, and the Government would proudly make a contribution to this cause. I would also like to urge individuals to adopt more conscientious environmental attitudes, specifically by either using public transport or walking when circumstances would easily allow for.