

To whom it may concern.

Under the terms of reference 1(a)(i) and 1(f) of the “Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy”, I would like to propose a scheme whereby the elimination of employee travel will give financial incentives to the employers.

With the wide spread use of telecommuting that is taking place there should in the authors opinion be recognition for this.

Removal of a vehicle trip from busy roads is advantageous by not producing Carbon Dioxide normally produced in undertaking the required trip. In relation to reduction in Carbon dioxide production I am assuming that the heating/cooling costs in homes are equivalent to the work places.

If businesses can recognise the fuel not used by eliminating a trip to/from work as a Carbon offset this would give incentive to encourage this behaviour.

This can benefit the push for work/life balance and for productivity gains in using the eliminate travel time for other tasks.

There are complexities to the system but most employers know the residential address of their employees so a simple formula can be created using this information.

For the author a day of work from home would eliminate 2 hours of travel. This equates to a 8 hour day time savings for every four worked from home which can be utilised in productive work! If an appropriate arrangement can be negotiated, the carbon credits for the negated travel should be awarded to the employer. The time could also be divided between the individual and the employer so that both gain in getting extra productive hours from the transport elimination. The employer alternatively could allow the individual the saved hours as compensation for the incurred home office costs and just claim the carbon credits from the negated travel. The fuel savings would amply offset the individuals' energy consumption for heating and cooling and the energy used at home if “Green Certified” means the employer has shifted the consumption to a carbon offset energy source through this proxy. This could be a win/win and enable employers to meet stipulated carbon offset targets and the government to help encourage work/life balance. This would also help remove some burden from the transport infrastructure and encourage use of the Broadband infrastructure.

I hope this has been of help.

Yours Sincerely
Bruce Ferabend