



Sustainable Transport Centre

Peterborough – 'Creating the UK's Environment Capital'
Working for greener movement of people and freight



• Oundle Road • Peterborough • Cambridgeshire • PE2 9NR • England •
• Project Office Tel/Fax. 01733 319362/895587 • Visitor Info Tel. 01733 344240 •
• Email: info@railworld.net • Web: www.railworld.net • www.transcocentre.com •

"TransEco" – what is it all about?

1. Lord Stern's 2006 Report to Her Majesty's Government is a sound starting point. "The scientific evidence is now overwhelming; climate change represents very serious global risks, and it demands an urgent global response."
2. TransEco is the name of a Peterborough project to reduce carbon emissions from our mobility. Transport produces 15%, or more, of the greenhouse gases driving global warming.
3. TransEco will be a local and regional centre promoting Sustainable Transport. Mobility is part of living. The vision is zero carbon movement. The goal is modes of travel for people and freight that do least harm to the environment.
4. TransEco is managed by Railworld, a charity company limited by guarantee, established 1985. It owns a 14 acre / 5.7 hectare freehold site in the centre of Peterborough. Railworld's principle legal objects are:
 - To advance the education of the public in all aspects of sustainable transport as part of the United Nations range of measures to combat human induced climate change.
 - To advance the education of the public in all aspects of railway travel as a widely acknowledged form of sustainable transport.
 - To create an eco-transport centre to be opened to the public for the aforesaid purposes.
5. "TransEco" is being developed from "Railworld", an existing visitor centre, grown slowly since 1993. TransEco will lead to new jobs and add to the City's tourist menu. The aim is 50,000 visitors per annum; for their money, visitors will receive a diet of education and entertainment. Exhibitions will be multi-modal and wide-ranging. Achieving sustainable transport must mean using all manner of fresh and challenging technologies. It is also about changing our lifestyles toward more sustainable behaviour patterns. Since we have entered "the energy climate era", some exhibits will highlight the importance of energy and environmental technologies.
6. TransEco will be another element in the City's claim to be "UK's Environment Capital". Its iconic main building, alongside Network Rail's East Coast main line, is designed to carry sizeable ecological messages, and be a visual icon in its own right, putting Peterborough on the map as travellers pass by. The site is south of the river, close to Nene Valley Railway.

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7. North of the river are two smaller, but nevertheless important, Transeco assets:
 - Globe Hall, named after its 2.5m diameter Earth model, is a valuable tool to help visitors connect with a rising awareness that we are world citizens. The proximity of the model helps people "think big", a required mindset to help nurture future sustainable living and movement.
 - Nature haven (the wildlife area and picnic space) is another connections place. Nature provides the world's life support systems; we neglect it at our peril. Today's growing loss of nature's biodiversity is "writing on the wall" – to even the highly adaptable human species.
8. Transeco's economy will be that of a tourist attraction. The following income sources are envisaged:
 - 8.1 Visitors at the gate.
 - 8.2 Hire of exhibition floor space, perhaps as much as three quarters of the planned 8000m².
 - 8.3 Conference facilities for up to 200 people.
 - 8.4 Office space to let; initially 500m². Peterborough University Project has expressed interest for their sustainable construction faculty.
 - 8.5 Secondary sources: shop; catering; vehicle parking (including for football matches); use of West fair Meadow for events, demonstrations, promotions, and inter-fairs storage; rail vehicle storage; angling rights; river moorings; and riverside allotments.
 - 8.6 Use of Globe hall for lectures and other educational events.
9. Partnership working, for instance with Local Authority transport departments, the Environment Agency, NGOs such as "Campaign for better transport", Sustrans and international bodies will be important.
10. TransEco and management partners, once planning permission is received, must engage in extra fundraising to raise around £6m in order to close the funding gap between capital raised from selling land for housing and the funding required to build a quality 8,000m² centre.
11. The threats to life on Earth from human induced climate change are unfolding faster than most of the world's climate scientists predicted. At least for our children's sake, we must act; God help us.