

Statement of voluntary compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics

Introduction

Rail Delivery Group (RDG) have designed and developed Green Travel Data, which is a commitment by the rail industry to calculate and publish a set of per-passenger emission values for all rail journeys on the National Rail network. The data is available free of charge via the industry data repository, The Rail Data Marketplace and is intended to be the most accurate and representative source of data for public facing journey planners and as a resource to industry policymakers. To demonstrate our commitment to impartiality and accuracy, we have adopted the principles of the Code of Practice for Statistics when sourcing and processing data for this project.

Whilst its aim is to demonstrate the environmental credentials of rail travel, it strives to do so by sourcing the most accurate data available relating to:

- passenger numbers for each individual journey
- fuel and energy consumption data for each train fleet
- station to station distances for all rail stations

It is also our aim to process the data in the most representative way, and to regularly refresh the results to reflect the latest timetables and passenger numbers and any additional or more accurate datasets.

To ensure the results are as accurate and impartial as possible, the key datasets used are well established having been refined over an extended period of time by stakeholders with a collective imperative to ensure accuracy and impartiality. In many cases, they are used in financial calculations, so the independent desire for accuracy can be assured.

To demonstrate we are following best practice throughout the process we have voluntarily adopted the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Statistics and to ensure that our results meet the three key areas of the code – 1. trustworthiness, 2. quality and 3. value.

This document complements the detailed Green Travel Data methodology and companion FAQ document which are published on the Rail Delivery Group website, within the Green Travel Data section.

The principles of the code will continue to form the basis for future refreshes and expansion of the Green Travel Data.

What is the Code of Practice for Statistics?

The Code of Practice is a framework by which official statistics should be compiled. The framework for the code is based on three pillars:

- **Trustworthiness** - Confidence in the people and organisations that produce statistics and data.
- **Quality** - Data and methods that produce assured statistics.
- **Value** - Statistics that support society's needs for information.

Any organisation that produces data, statistics and analysis can choose to apply the code to help them produce outputs that are high quality, useful in supporting decisions, and well respected.

Green Travel Data has chosen to apply the principles of the code, details of how are outlined below. More information on the Code of Practice for Statistics is available on [the dedicated website](#).

How do we apply the Code of Practice?

Trustworthiness: We strive to ensure that Green Travel Data is trustworthy in intent and in practice. We also strive to be impartial in the way we gather, process and disseminate information.

- Honesty and integrity (T1) – The analysis undertaken as part of Green Travel Data follows the Seven Principles of Public Life and be transparent and auditable in how it does so.
- Independent decision making and leadership (T2) – Governance of each data set sits with the experts of the respective areas. The subject matter experts (SMEs) will advise on how the data is used, but the impartiality of its usage will be independently governed by the Green Travel Data Project Board.
- Orderly release (T3) – Updates will be released at regular intervals with all updates managed via the Rail Data Marketplace to ensure users are aware of changes. Data will also shortly be provided via an API so that any refreshes automatically filter through to the end user.
- Transparent processes and management (T4) – Internal governance and engagement with industry stakeholders and data suppliers will ensure that the processes by which the data is generated are well understood through regular reviews of the available data and rigorous data processing checks. The methodology is also clearly documented to ensure those consuming it, can do so appropriately.
- Professional capability (T5) – Extensive engagement with SMEs from all data sources and regular consultation ensure that those with the best skills and knowledge in each area was involved throughout the project development process and will be as it is expanded and updated.
- Data governance (T6) – By making the data available only through the Rail Data Marketplace, access is limited to approved parties only. Further phases will see the data available through an API, which will ensure that only the current data is being consumed in the way it is intended. This allows us to monitor for incorrect usage.

Quality: By engaging with subject matter experts within the rail and sustainability industry and beyond, also by seeking the most accurate and appropriate base data, Green Travel Data

strives to make its outputs as accurate as possible

- Suitable data sources (Q1) – GTP has undertaken exhaustive consultation with SMEs from a variety of disciplines both within and outside the rail industry at the project scoping stage. This has identified the most accurate available data sources required to calculate both the number of passengers on each train, and the emission value of the rolling stock used. We continue to engage with SMEs to ensure that any new and more accurate data sources are incorporated.
- Sound methods (Q2) – The methodology (which was created by an independent SME with ISO14083 accreditation) has been subject to extensive rail consultation and is published within the Rail Data Marketplace and in a set of FAQs on the [RDG Green Travel Data webpage](#), with feedback from stakeholders encouraged. These are revisited regularly and have been independently reviewed for appropriateness.
- Assured quality (Q3) – Various safeguards have been put in place to crosscheck processes and results for inadvertent errors and any systemic issues. A process of continual review is in place. The process to attain ISO14083 accreditation is being progressed. This will ensure we are following the established methodology for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions arising from the operation of transport chains of passengers and freight.

Value: We aim to maximise the value of the data we provide by understanding the needs of consumers of it as much as possible; and working with them to present it in a contextual and easy to understand way.

- Relevance to users (V1) – We present Green Travel Data regularly at rail industry and travel industry events so that stakeholders, users and potential users of the data can feedback and we can continue to develop the accuracy and value of the dataset. It is also presented in a way that allows meaningful comparison with other transport modes. We actively encourage new stakeholders to get in touch via a dedicated email address.
- Accessibility (V2) – Data is available free of charge by organisations registering through RDM. Full access to the data is available to individuals via our public facing carbon calculator. A detailed methodology is also available and detailed Q&A is publicly accessible and provides an explanation of Green Travel Data in less technical language.
- Clarity and insight (V3) – We are working to make the data available, contextually at point of sale (i.e. through online journey planners) so people can easily understand what it means to the journey they intend to make.
- Innovation and improvement (V4) – We will continue to work with the rail industry and beyond to identify and consume any new data sources that may improve the accuracy, granularity or immediacy of the information Green Travel Data provides. As an example, we are looking to refine the modelled passenger loading figures by factoring in real time passenger loading figures.
- Efficiency and proportionality (V5) – We continually work with stakeholders and SMEs to improve the efficiency by which we gather, process and disseminate data. We are actively working to ensure that all appropriate parties have the opportunity to feed into and consume the data.