

**NEWS RELEASE, 3 MARCH 2014**

**A new approach to E-mail: Posties go electric at London Met**

With London's air pollution well exceeding official targets, it's more important than ever to find ways of reducing carbon emissions in the capital.

Now, one university has taken a whole new approach to e-mail by replacing its diesel post van with an electric one.

London Metropolitan University, which has three campuses across central London, has introduced the battery-charged transporter to do its twice-daily runs between sites. The van will save some 765 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> every year – the equivalent of 1,551 tube journeys between Holloway Road and Aldgate.

Rachel Ward, Estates Energy Manager at London Met, said: "We were in the process of tendering for a new post van and I had the idea of going electric. We're city-based and the van is only needed for short hops between campuses so I knew it would be well compatible with our needs.

"We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and this is one of the ways in which we are doing just that."

As well as saving on carbon emissions, the van is also a cheaper alternative to diesel.

"It will cost us 3.6p per mile to run compared, to 12.1p per mile for diesel," added Rachel. "And, because it is electric, it is exempt from the congestion charge and road tax. All in all we're saving over £3,200 by going electric."

It costs £3 to fully charge the van's battery, which will produce energy for 106 miles.

So, what's it like to drive?

Bernardette Boenecke, Campus Services Assistant, said: "It's very quiet, so you have to beep when you're pulling out because pedestrians just don't hear you coming. It was very strange at first – it's so quiet that you can hear the wheels on the road. It's really smooth to drive though, and because it's automatic there's no danger of it stalling which always helps!"

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**Notes to editors:**

The van is a Kangoo Maxi ZE electric LL21 44kW van auto. Images are available upon request.

**London Metropolitan University**

London Metropolitan University has a rich history with strong educational roots dating back to 1848.

The University as it is today was created in 2002 with the merging of London Guildhall University and the University of North London, the first merger between two universities in the UK. Its roots however, lie firmly in the nineteenth century with the establishment of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Young Men, in 1848.

At London Metropolitan University we believe that everyone has the right to an accessible quality education. Our students enjoy the highest levels of support and our courses recently received top marks from the UK's Quality Assurance Agency. We are proud of the diversity & achievements of our students, alumni and staff.

Here at London Met we put our students at the centre of all we do. London Met is a great place to study, located in the heart of one of the world's most exciting cities. We stand out because we offer courses of quality, in a vibrant, socially diverse environment, which will help launch your career.

We are committed to helping our students build rewarding careers. Courses are designed and updated to be directly relevant to the current employment market.

London Met is as dynamic and multicultural as the city in which it is situated. Here you will meet and work with people from around the world, who will enrich your development and learning. Since our students come from a range of backgrounds, we have always made sure that the education we offer is accessible and flexible.

**For more information:**

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