CASE STUDY **CHIVAS BROTHERS**

Electric car fleet

Chivas Brothers is the Scotch Whisky and premium gin business of Pernod Ricard. The company produces, exports, and markets some of the world's best known Scotch Whisky malts and blends, including Chivas Regal, Ballantine's, The Glenlivet and Royal Salute.

Chivas Brothers is committed to continually reducing its greenhouse gas emissions through innovation and the adoption of new technologies. Although the majority of emissions originate from the fuel and energy used at distilleries and bottling plants, other parts of the business are also expected to take reasonable measures to reduce their contribution to the overall environmental footprint of the company.

The improvements form part of a wider strategy to reduce the impact of travel on business efficiency and employee performance. The strategy is made up of a range of measures that include:

- Use of a dedicated pool car fleet to better manage and control business mileage;
- Provision of alternative meeting options, including facilities for e-learning, web training and teleconferencing, plus a capability for videoconferencing from 8 key locations;
- Centralised travel booking to monitor and manage indirect business mileage;
- Support for employee commuting through a Cycle to Work scheme and advance Season Ticket allowance.

The pool car fleet performs a range of functions, from business travel between sites, the movement of engineering parts and equipment or access to remote water sources and land. Since 2007 the company has operated a fleet of 10 petrol hybrid vehicles for the movement of staff between sites, both between the distilleries on Speyside and between its bottling and maturation sites in the south west of Scotland. The average return journey for these pool vehicles is between 30 and 35 miles, which made them suitable candidates for the latest generation of electric vehicles when the fleet came up for retirement in 2012.

The company chose to replace its hybrids with a fleet of 10 Vauxhall Ampera electric vehicles, spread across 3 charging bases at Dumbarton, Paisley and Speyside. The cars will stay on the fleet for five years and will each cover around 12,000 miles per year.

The vehicles have a range of up to 50 miles, which is more than adequate for most journeys. However, the range can be extended by a further 300 miles on longer outings using the petrol fuelled generator within the car.

The electric cars will reduce the official emission figures for the vehicles by 75% from 109gCO_2/km to 27gCO_2/km, compared with an average for all UK cars of 149gCO_2/km. Initial figures on the actual performance of the vehicles have shown a significant improvement, with average fuel efficiency rising from 39mpg (167gCO_2/km) to 250mpg (26gCO_2/km) for the electric vehicles.

More detailed data on the actual consumption and performance of the vehicles, recorded via the charging points, will be collected and analysed by the Energy Saving Trust over the next 5 years.

Top: Electric Car Fleet – Vauxhall Ampera
Bottom: Charging Point at Paisley