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Rail Transport and the Environment

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Author: Community of European Railways

Placing environmental criteria at the forefront of transport policy more important than it is today. Cutting emissions of greenhouse gases has become one of the biggest political issues in Europe, yet transport remains the most intractable area to change, with emissions continuing to rise.

The first part of this book gives a comprehensive overview of the rail sector's environmental performance and how it compares with other modes of transport. It looks at the current problems facing the rail system and the changes that are currently taking place within it, such as local air pollution and noise, which are being addressed.

The second part examines how policy measures can support the development of a sustainable transport system. It considers how taxes and subsidies can be used to greater effect to encourage changes in travel, whether the rail system can be properly internalised, and looks at examples from the UK and Sweden of how policies are being put into practice.

The book has been put together by the Community of European Railways, which represents 70 railway operators and infrastructure companies across Europe.

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