

The Problem

Air pollutants come mostly from vehicle exhaust. Local air pollution causes discomfort to people in the vicinity, particularly where it occurs in sensitive areas e.g. outside schools. High levels of localised pollution can also trigger the symptoms of asthma and other respiratory diseases in susceptible people. Local air pollution can be lowered while saving money for yourself by following the advice in this leaflet

Currently there are over 24,000,000 cars on our roads and this number is increasing all the time. These account for:-

22% of the total UK emissions of carbon dioxide
47% of the total UK emissions of nitrogen oxides.
71% of the total UK emissions of carbon monoxide.
25% of particulate matter in the atmosphere.

As the number of cars on the road increases so will the amount of pollution. However with a few little changes in the way you use your car in everyday life you can help to keep pollution to a minimum

It would be a good idea if people leave their cars at home and when ever possible, either walk, cycle or use public transport whenever possible.



Tips for Greener Motoring

Reduce mileage through route planning

Remove roof racks to cut down wind resistance and remove unnecessary weight from the boot.

Maintain your car - check your engine is properly tuned and you have the correct tyre pressure; low tyre pressure uses more fuel and creates more pollution. Every 6psi the tyre is under inflated the fuel consumption increases by 1%.

Drive smoothly; avoiding hard acceleration and sudden braking can use 30% less fuel.

Keep your speed down; at 50mph (80kmph) emissions will be lowest rising quickly above 70mph (110kmph). It can cost you 25% more in fuel to travel at 70mph compared with 50mph.

Switch off the engine when stationary (it is an offence to leave the engine running when Stationary except when queuing in traffic).

Air conditioning uses more fuel, increasing fuel consumption and pollution. Try to minimise its use because it will reduce your mileage per litre.

Try to car share, share your journeys by travelling with friends or giving colleagues a lift to work.

Share the car between the family instead of running 2 or more cars.

Small cars are more economical and environmentally friendly, buy the smallest car that meets your needs. Contact the Vehicle Certification Agency for details of environmental performance for different models.

Information on the best fuels/vehicles

Diesel

Lower CO₂ emissions so best in relation to global warming
Diesel is worse for local pollutants.

Good mileage.

New GDI (Gasoline Directed Injection) engines offer significant improvements in fuel efficiency

LPG

The engines can run on either petrol or LPG.manufacturers offer dedicated cars and these give better performance and grants available to buy these cars
Petrol engines can be converted to LPG

Relatively cheap prices for fuel Government tax incentives on fuel

Good emission levels.

1000 LPG filling stations and more on the way.

Hybrid Vehicles

Combustion engine combined with battery and electric motor

Reduced fuel consumption

Grants available to buy hybrid vehicles

Electric motor and batteries used as main drive power.

Combustion engine used as additional power and to drive electric generator.

Electric Vehicles

A wide range are available

Cheap to run

No emissions at the point of use as they arise at the power stations

Limited range of about 50 miles

Good as urban runabout and suitable for short journeys.

Grants are available to help you buy vehicles that run on LPG, hybrid technology and electric power.

New Regulations for Vehicle Emissions

All new cars must comply with the Euro standard, which is a collection of EU vehicle emission Standards

These limits are gradually being tightened up.

Since March 2001 the annual Vehicle Excise Duty rate has been determined by their CO₂ emissions and the type of fuel used.

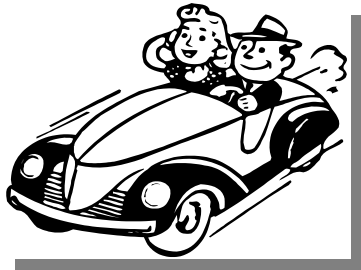
To reduce vehicle emissions, local authorities now have the power to ask drivers to switch off their engines when it is clear they are being run unnecessarily. This can be backed it up with a fixed penalty if necessary for drivers who blatantly offend and refuse to co-operate.

Regulation 98 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and use) Regulations 1986 already makes it an offence to leave a vehicle engine running unnecessary while stationary.

The driver does not have to be in the vehicle for an offence to be committed

The fine for the fixed penalty is £20

All local authorities now have this power to address air pollution concerns



This leaflet has been produced by the Environmental Services Division as part of the Community Strategy for West Lancashire. The Environmental Services Division can be contacted on 01695 577177

Useful Addresses and Numbers

Information on air quality ceefax page 404, 411-414
Free phone 0800 556677

www.nasca.org.uk

Grants for cleaner cars
Tel: 0845 6021425
www.est-powershift.org.uk

Community car share network
Tel 0113 234 9299
Info@carclubs.org.uk

Environmental Transport Association breakdown service
Tel: 01932 828882
www.eta.co.uk

New car fuel consumption and emission figures
www.Vcacarfueldata.org.uk
Tel: 0117 952 4106
fuel@vca.gov.uk

Motor Industry Research Association
Cleaner fuels
www.mira.co.uk/app/

Alternative Fuels Data Centre
www.afdc.nrel.gov

Fuel Cell Information Centre
www.fuelcells.org

Department of Transport
Transport policy unit
Room p2/048
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 3EB

Department of the Environment
Room A127
Romney house
43 Marsham Street
London
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West Lancashire District Council



Motoring and Air Pollution

Information and suggestions for environmentally friendly motoring