

## ENERGY SAVING WEEK: TRANSPORT



### Driving down emissions

Road transport causes 25 per cent of the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. These emissions not only cause air pollution but they also only contribute to global warming. A vehicle emits CO<sub>2</sub> when the fuel is burnt so the more fuel a vehicle uses, the more CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted. With the high fuel prices we are seeing at the moment, you could make significant financial savings as well as helping the environment, by considering ways of reducing the amount of fuel you use.

### Using the car less

The best way to reduce your CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is to drive less. That might mean cutting out some journeys altogether, sharing lifts, or walking, cycling or taking the bus for short journeys.

For help planning journeys, try the transport direct website [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info); they can also estimate the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions resulting from your journey.

### Smarter Driving

When you do have to use a car, following smarter driving tips will typically reduce average fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by around 15 per cent, saving up to £200 - £250 a year.

- Check your revs: When you change up a gear, look at your rev counter. Change up between 2,000rpm and 2,500rpm
- Drive smoothly and read the road: Anticipate road conditions as far ahead as possible to avoid unnecessary acceleration and braking.
- Slow down: At 85 mph you will use around 25 per cent more fuel than at 70mph. Keep to the speed limit. The most efficient speed is around 45–50mph.
- Step off the accelerator: Remain in gear but take your foot off the accelerator as early as possible, for example when approaching a red light or roundabout or when driving downhill. This reduces the fuel flow to the engine to virtually zero.
- Check your tyre pressure once a week: Under inflated tyres are dangerous and increase fuel consumption.
- Air conditioning: Use air conditioning sparingly as it makes a big difference to the amount of fuel you use.
- Switch it off: Modern cars use virtually no extra fuel when they're re-started, so if you're stuck in a jam for more than a minute switch off your engine.

- Plan your journey to avoid congestion, road works and getting lost.
- Reduce drag: Drive only with the accessories you need. Remove unnecessary roof racks, bike carriers and roof boxes as they significantly affect your car's aerodynamics and reduce fuel efficiency.
- Drive off from cold: Modern cars are designed to be driven off straight away. Warming up the engine just wastes fuel.

### Buying your next car

If you're planning to buy a new or second-hand car, remember that more fuel efficient cars cause less emissions and will save you money on fuel and tax. The amount you pay for Vehicle Excise Duty (road tax) for cars is related to their CO2 emissions, so choose a car with the lowest CO2 emissions and you'll pay less.

In general, smaller cars and models with smaller engines produce less CO2. There can be a big difference in emissions between cars in the same market category, so do compare emissions figures before making your purchase and try to buy the 'best in class'. The easiest way to do this is to visit the Department for Transport's website, [dft.gov.uk/ActOnCO2](http://dft.gov.uk/ActOnCO2) and look at the 'Best on CO2 rankings'.

You can also find information about a car's CO2 emissions:

On the environmental label which should be displayed on all new cars in showrooms. This grades each car from A (the cleanest) to G (the most polluting) and is similar to the European Union energy label found on household appliances.

In car adverts. Manufacturers must by law publish CO2 emission information.

The VCA Car Fuel Data website [vcacarfueldata.org.uk](http://vcacarfueldata.org.uk) provides information on the CO2 emissions of all new cars and also used cars registered after 2000.