



THE LOWDOWN ON EMISSIONS.

Everyone's very aware of the impact that motoring can have on our environment and on peoples' budgets. The good news is that lightening your load on the environment by changing the way you drive will also take the pressure off your wallet.

THE GREEN ROAD.

It's surprising how much greenhouse gas cars produce. The average car emits 65 kilograms (that's 10 stone) of carbon dioxide every 250 miles. At the time this guide went to press, the fuel needed to create all those emissions cost £38. And it doesn't take long to clock up a few hundred miles these days.

Greener motoring certainly makes financial sense when petrol prices are as high as they've been in recent years. But while a lot of people would love to buy themselves a more fuel efficient car to take away some of the pain at the pumps, that's not an option for most drivers.

Happily, you don't need to buy a different car to cut your carbon footprint. It's all about finding simple ways to use less fuel as you drive. And you can start right where you are, with the car you use every day.

THINK 'ECO'.

Even little things like keeping your tyres correctly inflated can have a big effect on how much fuel you use when driving. By combining tips like that with 'eco driving' techniques like those listed on the next page, you can soon find yourself using around 15% less fuel compared to the average driver.

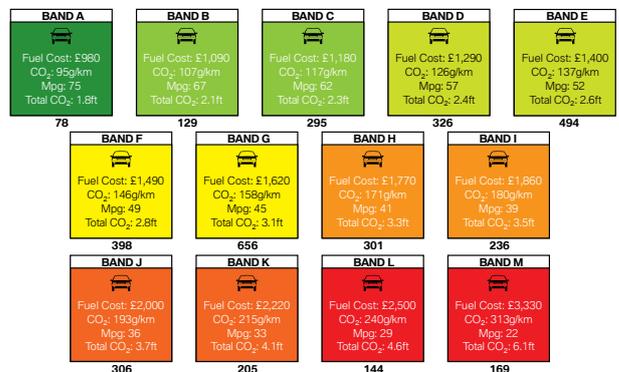
In practical terms, that's the same as saving 20 pence on every litre of fuel you buy. Or, in environmental terms, it reduces your carbon emissions from driving by over 50kg (eight stone) every 1,000 miles.

As you can see, it really pays to cut your carbon footprint!

WHAT DOES MY CAR COST?

This comparison chart shows how much a typical car in each road tax band might cost to fuel over 12,000 miles of driving. Using official Government figures, it also shows the average CO₂ rating, fuel consumption and the total CO₂ emitted over 12,000 miles in metric tonnes by a typical car in each band. The figure below is the number of new cars (all models and variants) on the market in each band in January 2012.

You can look up the CO₂ and fuel consumption of most cars currently on sale at the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)'s web site: www.vca.gov.uk.



Note: Average CO₂ g/km and MPG figures are based on official fuel consumption and emissions data published by the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) (www.vca.gov.uk). Total average CO₂ figure is calculated from VCA data. Fuel costs are calculated from VCA fuel consumption data and national average prices in early March 2011 published in Fleet News.



GREEN JARGON BUSTER.

Things you should consider when buying a new car.

Auto stop-start. Engines that switch off automatically when the car is at rest in neutral, to save fuel and emissions.

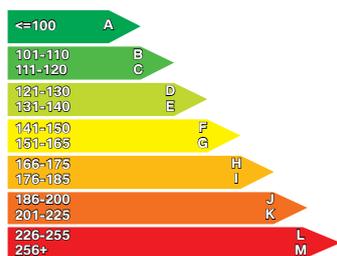
Biofuel. Petrol and diesel substitutes made from plants and other renewable sources. Small amounts are already mixed with ordinary fuel from many pumps.

DP Filter. Filters fitted to newer diesel vehicles. They make exhaust gases cleaner by trapping sooty particles.

E85. A mix of 85% biofuel and 15% petrol that can be used in modified cars. Not widely available.

Fuel cell. Hydrogen-electric motor with no harmful tailpipe emissions. May be commercially available in 10-15 years.

Green label. Information about fuel consumption and running costs, displayed on new cars. The coding is from band A (least CO₂) to band M (highest CO₂). The levels correspond to road tax bands. The label is also a guide to the running costs you can expect for that car over 12,000 miles, so you can compare how much different cars cost to run.



Hybrid. A car with an electric motor as well as a petrol engine. It switches automatically between the two as you drive to minimise CO₂ emissions.

Hydrogen. Renewable fuel with potentially zero tailpipe emissions once technical challenges of production and storage are overcome. This will work in conventional engines and fuel cell motors.

Mild hybrid. Hybrid whose electric motor boosts the engine but won't drive the car alone.

THE GREENEST MILE IS THE ONE YOU NEVER DRIVE.

Combined with shopping around for cheaper fuel and driving economically, finding ways to drive fewer miles really puts the pounds back in your wallet as well as shrinking your carbon footprint.

Work out the shortest route on a map before you set out or use an online route planner to do it for you. Share cars for business trips or commuting. Some companies now have car share clubs with member perks such as dedicated parking spaces. Save on business mileage by combining meetings or holding a teleconference instead.

You can find all the items needed to keep your vehicle fully maintained by visiting www.bmw.co.uk/accessories.

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TIPS FOR CUTTING EMISSIONS AND MAKING EVERY POUND GO FURTHER.

You don't need to buy a high tech hybrid or a new micro-mini car to start reducing your carbon footprint and saving money at the pumps.

Driving economically – that's smoothly rather than slowly – can give you 15% more miles per gallon. If you drive 12,000 miles a year, that's 1,800 'free' miles or an extra £270 in your pocket over 12 months if you drive a typical medium-size car. Cutting out unnecessary mileage – even just 20 miles a week – saves more on fuel, CO₂ and bills.

TRY THESE TECHNIQUES:

Smoothly does it. Avoid over-revving the engine. Read the road to avoid unnecessary braking and acceleration.

Plan journeys. Allowing extra journey time saves wasting fuel and risking your licence by speeding after a delay.

Regular servicing saves fuel. Under-inflated tyres can raise fuel consumption by 10% (up to £8 for every tankful).

Lose 'lb' not '£'. Don't carry unnecessary weight in the car.

Watch your speed. At high speeds, your car could be using up to 25% more fuel than necessary.

Idling is expensive. Warm a cold engine by driving. Turn off the engine if you're stopping for more than 30 seconds.

Streamline your car. Keep windows closed and take off roofbars when not needed.

Be cool, not cold. Use air conditioning sparingly to save fuel.

Supermarket sweep. Supermarket fuel prices are typically 1.5p a litre below national average prices – not a massive saving but one that adds up over time (and you can also get loyalty card points). Filling stations close to supermarkets are often nearly as cheap, because they try to keep their prices competitive.

Motorway madness. By contrast, motorway service stations are almost always the most expensive places to fill up; costing around £3.50 a tankful more than supermarkets. Don't be a captive audience; always filling up at lower priced sites really helps to take the sting out of rising fuel prices.

LINKS.

CO₂ and fuel consumption ratings www.direct.gov.uk

What is your carbon footprint? www.carbonfootprint.com

Government green motoring campaign www.dft.gov.uk/actonco2

Car sharing www.carplus.org.uk

Fuel prices www.petrolprices.com

Fleet driving www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/fleet