Electric

These vehicles are efficient, produce low noise and zero emissions in use (although the production of electricity in power stations has an environmental impact). They can cost as little as 1p per mile to run. You can charge your vehicle from any 13 amp socket in up to 7 hours. The majority of electric vehicles sold in the UK today are Peugeots or Citroens which achieve ranges of approx. 50 miles between charges. Their top speeds are 56mph. Thus they are excellent for those who solely use their cars for shorter, urban trips. Contact the Electric Vehicle Association on 01273 304 064.

Your Technique

In a queue

If you sit in your car with the engine running - your engine produces more pollution, your catalytic converter doesn't work properly, and you waste fuel. It's better to switch off your engine when in stationary traffic, you use more fuel sitting waiting for 45 seconds with the engine idling than if you switched off, and then restarted 45 seconds later.

When driving in a slow moving queue: gently accelerate at a slow, constant speed rather than accelerating rapidly then braking.

As a driver or passenger in your car you receive 3 times more pollution than a cyclist or walker. To avoid some of this adjust the ventilation so that you do not draw in fumes from the vehicle in front.

Over Speed bumps

When road humps are approached at speed this can have a significant effect on the pollution your car emits.

To minimise this; drive smoothly and steadily over the bump (avoid hard acceleration and braking)

On the motorway

You can achieve up to a 20% fuel saving by driving at 60 rather than 70mph. You also produce 20% less carbon dioxide.

Give your car a holiday

Did you know that in 6,000 miles a car will produce roughly it's own weight in CO2?

It's your shortest journeys that are the most damaging to the environment and health. Short journeys can also reduce the life of your engine and catalytic converter significantly.

- Your first kilometre produces 60% more fumes
- Catalytic converters are only effective for journeys over 5 miles
- Your engine wear is higher on short journeys as the lubricants have not reached the correct temperature.

Try to use local services, or order goods over the phone/internet rather than picking up your car keys. For short journeys under 3 miles: walk or cycle. It'll keep you fit, it's good for your car and your wallet!

On average we each make 19 trips by car every week. By making a small change, and leaving your car at home for one or two of these journeys, you could make a big difference.

More Advice?

Visit the web site for more information about alternative fuels, cleaner vehicles and advanced driving techniques.

www.travelwiseweek.org.uk

The web-site contains a handy table to help you work out your fuel consumption and count your car costs.

TRAVEL WISE®

A DRIVERS GUIDE

On the move with the Earth in mind

- Driving techniques
- Cut your car use
- Maintenance
- Alternative fuels
- Buying a cleaner vehicle

Quick Tips

- **Drive Off:** (within 20 seconds). An idling engine produces 80% more pollution than when a vehicle is in motion. There is no need to "warm up" your engine; modern cars will warm up faster on being driven.
- **Be Smooth:** Accelerating and braking increases fuel consumption by 20%. Those who accelerate sharply produce 50% more pollutants.
- **Drive in the right gear**, changing up to a higher gear as soon as the car is ready. (It is estimated that a speed of 37 mph in third gear uses 25% more fuel than in fifth gear).
- **Slow down:** The faster you drive the more carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide your car produces. 40-55mph is the most economical speed (at 70mph you use 30% more fuel than at 50mph)
- **Plan Ahead:** Motorists waste 350,000 tonnes of fuel per year getting lost! Visit the AA website www.theaa.com for free online route planning.

Maintenance

Keep the pressure up

Check your tyre pressure every week (when the tyres are cold). Under inflation of 0.3-0.4 bar can increase fuel consumption by 2-3%, but don't over-inflate them either (under and over inflation cause uneven wear and reduce your grip)

Stay Tuned

Service your car at least every year. Get the engine tuned, the wheels correctly aligned and your catalytic converter checked. 90% of badly polluting vehicles can be retuned at the garage within 15 minutes.

Extras

Remove your roof rack when you're not using it, you could be wasting up to 40% extra fuel.

When driving at higher speeds; keep your windows and sunroof closed and open your air vents instead.

Air-conditioning in a petrol vehicles uses on average 15% more fuel (in a diesel car it can increase consumption by 40%). When ever possible you should use your air vents instead.

Empty your boot: The more weight you carry - the poorer the fuel efficiency

Alternative Fuels and Cleaner Vehicles

Fuel consumption of similar size cars can vary by as much as 45%, so choose the most efficient car for it's class. More fuel efficient vehicles or those with a lower engine size fall into a lower rate tax class.

The Vehicle Certification Agency has details of the fuel consumption, tax classes, exhaust pollution levels and noise for most new petrol/diesel and LPG cars. Visit their website at www.vca.gov.uk/fcb.htm. Tel 0117 9524106 or email fuel@vca.gov.uk to request a booklet.

Petrol v Diesel

There is no easy answer. Both types produce harmful exhaust gases. If you tend to make mainly urban journeys, you should choose a small, petrol powered car . Smaller cars use less fuel, cause less congestion and are easier to park, diesels produce more particles which can aggravate asthma.

Be Car-Free

The cleanest and cheapest option! If you drive less than 6,000 miles a year it could be cheaper to sell your car (no depreciation, no road tax, no insurance, no fuel, and no car loan costs, etc.) and travel by taxi instead!

Better still use public transport for longer journeys, walk or cycle for shorter journeys, and consider purchasing an electric bike or hiring a car for medium length journeys.

LPG: (Liquefied Petroleum Gas)

Dual fuel cars (which have tanks for petrol and LPG) are now widely produced by a range of manufacturers and are available through many local dealers. The system automatically reverts to petrol should the vehicle run out of gas. LPG vehicles generally produce less pollutants than petrol only cars. There is also a financial benefit as LPG is around half the price of lead free petrol. There are grants available for those who convert their cars to dual fuel through PowerShift. Visit their web site www.est-powershift.org.uk or Telephone 0845 6021425 for more details.

Hybrid

Vehicles which have both an electric motor and an internal combustion engine. The Toyota Prius and the Honda Insight are currently the two main models produced. They both have impressive fuel economy and low emissions.