

Typically you might pay a joining fee and then be charged each time you wish to use the car. Effectively you only pay when you need to use a car. It is possible that joining a Car Club might enable you to sell your second car or eliminate the need to own a car at all.

## Car/lift share

Offer to car share with a neighbour, friend or colleague for regular journeys such as the journey to work or the shops. You could ask for a contribution towards your costs (eg parking, fuel) as long as you don't make a profit.

For business journeys the Inland Revenue encourages companies to offer a mileage rate per mile to encourage carrying of passengers.

- Greenhouse gas emissions from private cars increased by 13% to over 67 million tonnes between 1990 and 2003
- 25% of the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are caused by transport
- Air pollution causes between 12,000 and 24,000 premature deaths each year
- The health impacts of traffic pollution cost £11 billion per year
- In heavy traffic the car driver breathes in three times more fumes than a pedestrian or cyclist



## Find out more....

### General

#### 'Cutting your Car Use'

by Anna Semlyn  
[www.greenbooks.co.uk](http://www.greenbooks.co.uk)  
01803 863260

#### SignPOST website

[www.chamber.org.uk/SignPOST](http://www.chamber.org.uk/SignPOST)

### Alternative Fuels & Grants

[www.transportenergy.org.uk](http://www.transportenergy.org.uk)

### Car Clubs

[www.carplus.org.uk](http://www.carplus.org.uk)

#### Portsmouth City Car Club

[www.citycarclub.co.uk](http://www.citycarclub.co.uk)

### Car/Liftshare

[www.liftshare.com](http://www.liftshare.com)

[www.hantscarshare.com](http://www.hantscarshare.com)

### Car Tax & CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

[www.dvla.gov.uk](http://www.dvla.gov.uk)

[www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk](http://www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk)

### Inland Revenue

[www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

**Cutting**  
your car use by just  
**one day a week**

could help to cut  
**congestion**  
& **pollution**

by  
**20%**

You can get all Portsmouth City Council information in translation, large print, Braille or on tape. Please call 023 9284 1332

For translated information please call:  
Bengali answerphone service 023 9284 1651 or  
Cantonese answerphone service 023 9284 1652

আপনি পোর্টসমাউথ সিটি কাউন্সিলের সকল তথ্যের  
অনুবাদ, বড় অক্ষরে অথবা কেসেটে পেতে পারেন।  
দয়াকরে বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য এই নাম্বারে  
যোগাযোগ করুন 023 9284 1651

樸茨茅斯市政府的一切資料，  
均備有翻譯本、大字書刊或  
映音帶，如有需要，請致電  
023 9284 1652



Feb 2006

# Greener Driving

Cutting congestion and pollution while driving



Fuel for thought



Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL

Fuel for thought

We all need to travel whether it is to work, school, for shopping or leisure. If we cannot avoid using the car then there are ways to use less fuel, save money and reduce wear and tear on your car. You can still do something towards reducing congestion and pollution even when driving.

## Driving style

The way you drive the car affects the amount of fuel you use, the pollution caused and also affects your chances of having an accident:

- Avoid rapid acceleration & heavy braking
- Accelerate smoothly
- Obey the speed limit
- Change to a higher gear as soon as possible
- Start engine only when ready to move
- Don't leave engine idling – turn off after 2 minutes if stopped

Don't use or carry things when you don't need them as they can cause wind resistance, increase the weight of the car and use more fuel. Using your air conditioning can increase fuel consumption by up to 15%.

- Remove roof racks
- Wind up the windows
- Remove unnecessary items from the boot
- Use air vents instead of air conditioning

## Car maintenance

A well maintained car uses less fuel:

- Have your car serviced regularly
- Have an emissions test done
- Keep tyres correctly inflated

## Minimise trips

Whenever possible consider reducing the journeys you make:

- Plan the route to avoid adding extra miles to the trip
- Plan to combine trips so you use your car less during the day

## Replacing your car

When you come to replace your car there are options that help to cut emissions and see fuel reductions:

- Consider a smaller engined car
- Check fuel consumption figures
- Check CO<sup>2</sup> emissions
- Consider buying or converting a car to use alternative fuels

Cars with a smaller engine, which produce less CO<sup>2</sup> emissions, are generally also more fuel efficient and attract lower VED or 'car tax'.

## Alternative Fuels

There are a variety of alternative fuels available that are less polluting than petrol or diesel and help reduce harmful emissions. As well as CO<sup>2</sup>, vehicle emissions contain 'oxides of nitrogen' and 'particulates', which also affect air quality and health.

It is possible to convert most cars to run on cleaner fuels and in many cases a grant is available to help with the additional cost of conversion. The main clean alternatives are:

**Electric** – There are two types of electric car, those that run on electricity alone and dual fuel hybrids. Electric only are recharged by plugging into a 13 amp socket. They have zero tail pipe emissions, are virtually silent with low running costs and a range of 50 miles. Electric cars are ideal for short local trips in urban areas. It is currently only possible to purchase a small number of electric only vehicles for private use.

**Dual Fuel / Hybrid** – It is increasingly possible for vehicles to run on a mixture of a cleaner fuel alongside petrol or diesel. Usually these use electricity or natural gas. Such vehicles usually offer the same performance as regular cars at about two thirds the cost. Batteries are charged when the car is running on petrol or diesel.



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**Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)** - LPG is mainly comprised of propane and it is produced either as a by-product of oil refining or from natural gas fields. Vehicles can be 'dedicated' (they just use LPG) or 'bi-fuel' meaning that they can switch between fuels. LPG is generally used for smaller vehicles.

**Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)** – CNG is mainly methane, the gas people use to cook with or heat their homes. It is generally used for heavier vehicles such as buses and trucks.

**Biodiesel** - Biodiesel is produced from the oil of crops including oilseed rape, sunflowers, and soybeans as well as waste cooking oils. It is currently a blend of 5% biodiesel and regular diesel costing the same as diesel but helps reduce the levels of particulates produced.

**Fuel cells** - use hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity to power an electric motor. These zero emission vehicles are not currently available but may be seen as demonstration models.

**Financial help** – The additional costs of conversion to or purchase of cleaner fuel cars may be offset by grants. Cleaner fuelled cars do not have to pay the London Congestion Charge and can benefit from lower car parking charges or offer reduced running costs.

## Car Clubs

If you don't need to use a car all the time consider joining a Car Club. Car Clubs allow you to use a car when you want to but not to have the associated expenses (purchase, car tax, maintenance and running costs). Car Clubs usually offer a range of vehicles to suit your needs, including hatchback, estate and people mover.