



Top tips for Transport

Apart from walking and cycling, travel today almost always involves using a machine powered by fossil fuel energy. Consequently, if you travel a lot, your eco-footprint and carbon emissions will be high. In the UK, greenhouse gas emissions from cars and from flying have both increased significantly since 1990, and there is little sign of them starting to decline. A typical Briton's personal flying and driving makes up a quarter of their annual carbon emissions.

There is plenty of scope to make reductions. Here are some tips to help lessen the impact of your travel.

- 1. Drive less.** Use a bike, public transport or walk for short journeys – also use park & ride and park & stride to keep the car-miles down.
- 2. Fly less.** Look at using the train (and boat) instead of flying to UK and European destinations. The [Man in Seat Sixty-One website](#) has compiled masses of information to help plan journeys without using air-flights.
- 3. Drive economically.** Read the road to anticipate traffic flows and try to avoid braking as much as possible; accelerate and brake smoothly; change up at 2500 rpm, 2000 rpm in a diesel. Keep speed down; use air-conditioning sparingly, and switch off rather than idling for long periods (e.g. more than a minute).
- 4. Buy a more economical car.** Small cars are generally better. Diesel gives a higher mileage than petrol, but has a slightly worse impact on air quality. A small diesel with manual transmission can produce just half the emissions of a 2-litre petrol car with automatic gearbox. Use the [VED database](#) to compare economy of new cars
- 5. Switch to LPG.** Over 120,000 cars in the UK run on Liquefied Petroleum Gas, which is available at about 1300 filling stations. Converting a petrol car to LPG costs around £2000, for example see [Greenfuel](#). The pay back is in lower fuel costs, and reduced emissions of carbon dioxide (about 15%), other greenhouse gases and particulates (90% less than diesel). A modern diesel car probably has slightly lower CO₂ emissions than the same model running on LPG, but this will depend on driving patterns (e.g. urban vs. motorway driving). Drivers of LPG cars may also benefit from avoiding the London congestion charge.
- 6. Car share.** Some car-miles on journeys to work, the school run, and journeys around town on business, could be avoided by car-sharing. As well as making your own arrangements directly with friends and colleagues, you could sign up to a car sharing scheme like [surreycarshare.com](#).
- 7. Keep your car in good shape.** Under-inflated tyres can worsen your fuel economy by 3%; carrying around an un-needed roof rack and weighty items in the boot will have a similar impact. Check your fuel consumption when you fill up – an increase could indicate a fault. Keep your car running efficiently by having it serviced according to the schedule.
- 8. Find alternatives to business travel.** Look at options to cut back on business travel using technologies like telephone-conferencing, video-conferencing or Internet conferencing. You don't need to buy your own equipment, there are bureau services, for example [Eyenetwork](#).

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http://www.windowonwoking.org.uk/sites/localagenda21/top_tips/Top_tips_transport.pdf