



Climate Change  
Local Area  
Support  
Programme

Putting Policy into Practice | Procurement Project

## Section 3: Good Practice Guides

### Vehicles and Transport

#### What is the issue?

In 2008, road transport was the source of 18.9% (118.4 million tonnes) of total UK greenhouse gas (GHG) domestic emissions. *Source: DfT*

The Energy Saving Trust estimates that an organisation with a fleet of 100 vehicles could save up to £90,000 each year by implementing green fleet practices.

The **Clean Vehicle Directive** introduces sustainability obligations on all purchase decisions by public authorities and private operators concerning vehicles for public transport use. This takes into account the impact of energy consumption, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and pollutant emissions affecting air quality, integrated over the entire lifetime of vehicles. The Directive came into effect in December 2010 and is expected to be transposed into UK law in the very near future.

Local authorities are encouraged to participate in the trials or adoption of new vehicle technologies.

#### Government Buying Standards

The new **Government Buying Standards for Transport** were published in November 2010 and became mandatory for central Government departments from February 2011.

The standards cover mandatory criteria and best practice guidance for cars, vans, buses and waste collection vehicles.



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**What else can I do?**

- ✓ Develop a sustainable travel policy for your organisation
- ✓ Cut down the number of journeys made by car - choose feasible alternatives i.e. video conferencing or other modes of transport
- ✓ Consider setting up a car sharing scheme
- ✓ Reduce fuel consumption, through implementing driver awareness training in your organisation
- ✓ Ensure all fleet vehicles are regularly maintained and serviced so that they run efficiently
- ✓ Consider purchasing an alternative fuel pool cars, such as sustainable biofuel
- ✓ Support the shift to low carbon and electric vehicles through the introduction of infrastructure such as on-street charging points

**Suggested wording for inclusion in tender documents**

*“Vehicles, machinery and equipment procured and used for this contract to meet Euro 5 emissions standard and for vans and cars have CO<sub>2</sub> emissions near or below 120g/km.”*

Source: Bracknell Forest

*“Vehicles should have the capability to use renewable energy (biofuels, renewable electricity or hydrogen) from renewable energy sources.”*

Source: AGMA

*“All drivers must be trained (by a recognised institution) on environmentally-conscious driving on a regular basis to increase fuel efficiency.”*

Source: AGMA

A draft specification for low carbon light goods vehicles was developed as part of a **Light Goods Vehicle – CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Study** undertaken by AEA technology in 2010.

**Further information**

The **European Commission** has set up a new website to identify greener vehicles. The Clean Vehicle Portal is intended to help with compliance under the new legislation. The portal provides information on legislation for clean and energy efficient vehicles at EU level across Member States. It also provides access to technical data with the aim of facilitating joint procurement.

The Local Sustainable Transport Fund, with £560 million capital and revenue funding available over four years, enables local authorities to deliver solutions that build strong local economies, and address at a local level, the urgent challenge of climate change, delivering cleaner environments, improved safety and increased levels of physical activity.

The **ACT ON CO<sub>2</sub>** website lists the ten lowest CO<sub>2</sub> emitting cars in each class and also offers tips that employees can adopt to drive vehicles in a more fuel efficient way. The Energy Saving Trust have put together a document on ‘The Benefits of Cleaner Vehicles’.

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DfT has developed a basic **carbon tool** for local authorities to assist them in demonstrating the carbon benefits of transport interventions in their areas. The tool fully supports local authorities in making their own decisions about the carbon benefits of small scale interventions, and enables them to input their own assumptions and data from best estimates of take-up and effects for their areas. The tool also brings together in one place, central research on local transport and carbon, improves access to national transport data which can impact on emissions, and simplifies carbon appraisal guidance.

The Vehicle Certification Authority has launched a Van Fuel Data website, which allows buyers to check and compare the fuel consumption and emissions performance of any new van in the UK, alongside tips for van buyers on how to choose the right van for their needs.

The Fleet Forum for the United Nations Environment Programme has developed a product sheet - **Sustainable Procurement Guidelines for Motor Vehicles**.

Up to £30 million of funding is being made available to facilitate the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure through the 'Plugged in Places Infrastructure Framework'.

The DfT provides funding to the Energy Saving Trust to provide smarter driving training and to offer free, independent advice to organisations to help them implement green fleet policies.

### Case study 12 - AGMA Vehicle Procurement

As part of a review of vehicle procurement across AGMA, consideration is being given to ensuring all new vehicles purchased adhere to applicable comprehensive Government Buying Standards (GBS) criteria. Other criteria on fuel efficiency and energy efficient options, such as low resistance tyres are also being considered.

The following specific clause has been included within the tender notification for the overall framework: *"Please detail how your Organisation would ensure the availability of supply of energy efficient vehicles as per the requirements of the Clean and Energy Efficient Vehicle Directive CM/FMT/08/5046/L2."*