



**SMARTER
DRIVING**

TOP

TIPS

How drivers can cut air pollution
and CO₂ emissions while saving
money and fuel



Wandsworth Council has produced this leaflet to encourage smarter driving and use of alternative methods of transport. The aim is to improve air quality and to cut CO₂ emissions into the environment.

Why is this important?

Road vehicles contribute to pollution and climate change as engines burn fuel which produces air pollutants and CO₂. You can reduce these emissions by following the simple advice in this leaflet.

What options are available?

There are many ways in which you can help by considering your transport options.

Where possible you should consider:

? Is your journey **necessary** in the first place?

? Could you **walk** instead?

Walking is a great way to keep fit, protect the environment and save money.

See www.walkit.com

? Could you **cycle** instead?

Cycling to school or work is fast, environmentally friendly, and it keeps you fit.

See www.wandsworthcyclists.org.uk

? Could you use **public transport**?

Especially for longer journeys.

See www.tfl.gov.uk/traveltools

? Could you use environmentally friendly transport, like an **electric vehicle**?

See www.wandsworth.gov.uk/driveelectric

? Could your school or workplace develop a **sustainable travel plan**? See

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/schooltravelplans

TOP TIPS FOR SMARTER DRIVING

1 Plan your journey

Combine errands with other trips, like picking children up from school after your weekly shopping trip.

2 Avoid short journeys

Cold engines use twice as much fuel as warm engines. A catalytic converter takes 5 miles to become effective.

3 Remove unnecessary weight

Carrying extra weight in the boot makes your engine work harder and burn extra fuel. Roof racks and bike carriers also reduce fuel efficiency by affecting the car's aerodynamics.

4 Avoid air conditioning

It uses high energy levels and puts huge demands on fuel consumption.

5 Service your vehicle regularly

It will reduce fuel consumption and lengthen your vehicle's lifespan.

6 Check your tyre pressure

Pumping up is cutting down! You can reduce your fuel consumption by about 2%.

7 Try car-share

Sharing journeys with colleagues and friends means less cars on the road and will reduce the cost of journeys too.

8 Switch the engine off

An idling vehicle uses $\frac{1}{2}$ litre of fuel per hour and increases pollution. If you're stuck in a jam switch the engine off.

9 Don't warm the engine

Idling to heat the engine wastes fuel and causes rapid engine wear.

10 Drive at the right speed

The most efficient speed depends upon the type of car but it's typically 45-50mph where speed limits permit. At 70mph you will use 15% more fuel than at 50mph.

11 Change gear at lower revs

It will save fuel and create fewer emissions. The optimum gear change is at 2000 rpm (petrol) and 2500 rpm (diesel).

12 Drive smoothly

Sharp acceleration and hard breaking wastes fuel, and increases pollution and CO₂ emissions.

What other ways can I improve air quality?

- ✓ Think about emissions when you purchase your next vehicle. Some vehicles pollute more than others and you pay less road tax for lower polluting vehicles.

See www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk

- ✓ Convert your engine to run on gas (LPG) or bio diesel - it is cheaper and can reduce pollution by up to 90 per cent.

- ✓ Fit particulate traps to your diesel vehicle.

- ✓ Join a car club - it's cheaper and less hassle than owning a car.

See www.wandsworth.gov.uk/carclub

Why should I bother?

Cleaning up your vehicle emissions benefits everyone. Road vehicles are the main source of nitrogen dioxide and fine particles in Wandsworth.

A clean and efficiently running vehicle also saves you money on fuel and reduces maintenance costs.

Air quality and sustainable travel information

For further information about air quality, please phone: (020) 8871 6170

Fax: (020) 8871 7661

Minicom: (020) 8871 8403

Email: esd@wandsworth.gov.uk

You can visit us at:

One Stop Counter,
5th floor,
Town Hall Extension,
Wandsworth High Street,
SW18 2PU

Induction loop at reception
Open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday

Did you find this useful?

If you have any comments or suggestions about this leaflet please phone (020) 8871 7713

www.wandsworth.gov.uk

Wandsworth Council
Technical Services Department



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