



LowCVP's Andy Eastlake OLEV's Christmas messages bring some festive cheer and new policies for 2015

It was good to get some rest after the flurry of activity prior to the Christmas holidays.

I'm aware that some of you may have been waiting for details about the Office for Low Emission Vehicle's (OLEV) plans to encourage low carbon vehicle adoption from April 2015 onwards before firming up plans to buy for the 2015/16 period and I'm sure that there are still questions to be answered. What you may not be aware of is the enormous amount of activity going on behind the scenes to try to ensure that the new schemes will be even more robust and better designed, particularly for operators and users.

Apart from the new Government incentives there are, of course, significant other factors at play. The sudden and dramatic drop in oil prices, now filtering through to real savings at the pump, may reduce (in the short-term, at least) the financial attractiveness of low carbon vehicles. However, the rapidly increasing concern about air quality is having a contrary effect and revitalising the debate around the best vehicle choices. As *GreenFleet* readers will know, the motivations are not just saving money, but about real improvements in carbon, air quality and efficiency.

The LowCVP is working closely with Government in developing the new support schemes to try to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of all stakeholders. A good example is the development of a new scheme to support the adoption of greener buses.

During January we have been helping OLEV in running stakeholder workshops to help agree what the priorities for support should be, how vehicles should be tested, and, ultimately, how funds can be most effectively used to deliver the greatest market impact.

Building a consensus about how to spend limited funds can be very challenging. However, it's a key strength of the way policy in this area is now formulated that Government is engaging through the LowCVP's membership to try to make the new support opportunities as robust for suppliers, buyers and users of low carbon vehicles as possible.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.lowcvp.org.uk

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