



LowCVP's Andy Eastlake

Keeping Parliament on the low carbon route

We had a good opportunity for celebration this week as the LowCVP played host to a very well attended reception in the House of Commons, showcasing a group of leading innovators in low carbon transport. We'd organised the event to provide the backdrop for the launch of a new report by Cambridge Econometrics looking into the opportunities for the UK business and consumers if we can keep our focus on lowering carbon. An important headline showed that, by 2030, fuelling the average new low carbon car could be £600 cheaper every year than for the average car today. The report concluded that the national cost of running and replacing cars in the UK could be between £5-7 billion lower.

The report – Fuelling Britain's Future – commissioned by our partners in the reception, the European Climate Foundation, shows how the drive for low carbon road transport is – and will continue to be – good for motorists, good for the economy, jobs, growth and exports as well as being essential in protecting against climate change. The drive for greater efficiency in internal combustion vehicles is already saving motorists hundreds of pounds each year while advances in vehicle systems, lighter construction materials, more efficient tyres and the gradual introduction of electric propulsion will reduce running costs even further.

The study also found that a continuing focus on cutting carbon from road transport could lead to CO₂ emissions from the UK car and van fleet being cut by 47 percent by 2030, and as much as 80 per cent in 2050.

All positive news, but it is completely dependent on us all maintaining the steady and consistent policy focus on driving down emissions. A focus that over the last 12 years, has seen new car CO₂ reduce by nearly 30 per cent and sales of plug in cars pass 30,000 at the same time as the UK auto sector has led an industrial renaissance of jobs and manufacturing. Our parliamentary reception was aimed squarely at the policy makers to ensure that these messages of optimism emanating from a consistent low carbon policy would be heard now as politicians prepare for purdah. With so much activity in that last couple of months of this government I think you'll agree that low carbon motoring and green fleets are positioned to be a success whatever May 7th brings.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.lowcvp.org.uk and follow LowCVP on Twitter: @theLowCVP and @aeastlake