

MEDIA Notice

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LowCVP response to the SMMT New Car CO2 Report 2017

The Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP) is pleased to receive the latest report from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) which provides a key piece of evidence in tracking progress on road transport decarbonisation.

We are concerned at the slowing headline rate of CO₂ reduction in both cars and vans. (UK average new car CO₂ fell 1.1% in 2016 vs 2015, compared with 2.6%; 2.9% and 3.6% in the previous three years.)

We need to see a ramping-up in the rate of take-up in the market for plug-in cars and other low emission alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). These are critical technologies in the transition and some of the signals, such as the VED incentive to encourage consumers to buy lower CO₂ cars are being eroded with upcoming changes.

Andy Eastlake, LowCVP's Managing Director said: "Today's report should come as an early warning to all stakeholders that while our focus on dramatically improving the air quality in our cities is absolutely necessary, we must not take our eyes off the ball in terms of carbon reduction.

"We need to redouble our efforts to find the most innovative ways to encourage even lower CO₂ cars to be taken up in the mass market by UK consumers and fleets.

"We believe there is a like-for-like CO₂ advantage in running diesel vs petrol in motorway/long-distance use. The task of transforming the diesel car fleet to deliver the low air quality emissions performance we are seeing from the latest trucks is very challenging, but in motorway operations a highly efficient combustion engine (such as diesel) is currently the lowest carbon practical solution. We need to ensure that we use the most appropriate available technology in each situation."

In the context of road transport, the climate change and air quality agendas are closely interlinked. The LowCVP is at the centre of this discussion and is working to help deliver policy guidance, market information and other actions that can deliver a 'win-win' outcome.

See the SMMT's New Car CO₂ report at: www.smmt.co.uk/reports/co2-report/

NOTES TO EDITORS

Neil Wallis, LowCVP, 0207 304 6806; Mob: 07974 255720 neil.wallis@lowcvp.org.uk

About the LowCVP

The LowCVP is a public-private, not-for-profit partnership that exists to accelerate a sustainable shift to lower carbon vehicles and fuels and create opportunities for UK businesses. The LowCVP has been - and continues to be - mainly funded by the Department for Transport but with increasing contributions via membership fees and sponsorship/project income. Approaching 200 organisations are members, from diverse backgrounds including automotive and fuel supply chains, vehicle users, academics and environment/not-for-profit bodies. For more information visit: www.lowcvp.org.uk