



## LowCVP's Andy Eastlake Smart Cities need smart policies to bring Green Fleets?

Another very interesting initiative from OLEV is the Smart Cities programme. For which the expressions of interest were submitted in February. I expect some amongst you GreenFleet readers were at the workshop event in late January to hear the details.

OLEV anticipates that the £35m fund will be shared between about four cities who submit the best proposals. These cities that are chosen will offer a great opportunity for those in the process of 'greening' their fleet, or with green aspirations, to benefit from the provision of infrastructure and integrated policies to enhance the benefits, for example, and gain access to new low emission zones.

OLEV says that the bids can include both 'hard' measures including recharging/fuelling infrastructure, and 'soft' measures such as public procurement, behaviour-related and community measures (e.g. car clubs). Importantly the funding, like many other programmes, is aimed at stimulating large scale change in these cities, including the fleets of vehicles operating in and around the city conurbations. The LowCVP is currently working with partners to develop a policy guidance framework that should enable local and regional governments to increase the market for low carbon cars and vans through a toolkit of policy options.

The project is analysing policy inventions put in place by cities in the UK and Europe and identifying best practice measures. One of our primary aims (which should be music to the ears of fleet managers, is to try to create a framework of consistent policy approach so that for example, the car you buy to work in one low emission zone, is also eligible to drive in the others!

It can sometimes be too easy for a local government to narrowly focus on the vehicles in their city, without realising that those vehicles actually operate nationally and the fleets need a national framework in order to be able to make any significant changes to purchase strategies.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Government has announced its own version of the Go Ultra Low City scheme. *China Daily* reports that Pilot Cities for New Energy Vehicles will include Xiamen, which is expected to promote the use of 2,480 new energy vehicles, including 600 buses in the city from 2014 to 2015. Besides, it is scheduled that all of the official and government vehicles on Xiamen Island will be updated into new-energy vehicles by the end of 2020.

Done well, the power of Local Policies can make a huge contribution to the attractiveness of related green fleet options, however, done badly it can stifle the ambition of a fleet manager wanting to contribute to the low carbon agenda. So arguably Smart Cities need not only Green Fleets but also Smart and Green fleet managers.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.lowcvp.org.uk](http://www.lowcvp.org.uk) and follow LowCVP on Twitter:  
[@theLowCVP](https://twitter.com/theLowCVP) and [@aeastlake](https://twitter.com/aeastlake)