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LowCVP shows how van operators can clean up emissions, and their image...and cut whole life costs by up to £18,340

The Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership has launched a **Low Emission Van Guide** and associated web tool for operators interested in reducing running costs while also cutting their carbon emissions and impact on local air quality. The Guide is introduced alongside a related new report from Greenpeace which focuses on cutting emissions from corporate fleets (see below).

The van market is the fastest growing sector of UK road transport with vehicle numbers increasing at 3.5% per year and with more than 10% of the vehicles and 14% of the CO₂ coming from this sector. The sector is almost entirely (96%) diesel-powered and almost 50% of the vehicles are owned by companies.

It's aimed at operators of small to medium sized fleets of commercial vehicles, covering vans up to 3.5t GVW (gross vehicle weight).

The Low Emission Van Guide and associated Cost and Carbon Calculator have been prepared for the LowCVP by Cenex.

The Guide:

- Sets out the business, environmental and operational case for using low emission vans
- Gives van operators the knowledge and resources required to assess which vans are right for them
- Provides case studies showing the total cost of ownership and cost savings achievable from different types of low emission fuels and technologies

The Guide shows that in one example, operators using battery electric vans could reduce the whole life costs of a vehicle operating in the London Congestion Charge zone by £18,340, or £5,215 outside London.

This Guide is intended to assist operators in choosing the most suitable low emission van technology or fuel for the type of work they need to do. The Guide covers electric, plug-in hybrid, LPG, CNG and biodiesel.

The LowCVP's LEV Guide is introduced at the same time as Greenpeace launches a new study ([greenpeace.org.uk/greenfleets](https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/greenfleets)) which provides a comprehensive overview of how corporate fleets contribute to global oil consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and how that impact can be reduced.

The EU's corporate fleet is responsible for about 45% of emissions from road transport, equivalent to 8% of total EU greenhouse gas emissions. (Van operators are an important section of the corporate fleet, with over 1.6 million vans and 2.5million cars registered to UK companies.)

After reading the LowCVP's introductory LEV Guide, operators are encouraged to visit the Low Emission Van Information Hub (www.lowcvp.org.uk/lev), created by the LowCVP. The site hosts a *Van Cost & Carbon Calculator* which allows users to enter their own data and compare different low emission fuels and technologies suitable for their fleet.

Gloria Esposito, LowCVP Head of Projects, said: "Vans can be significant contributors to damaging emissions, particularly in cities. This Guide fills an information gap, giving operators the tools they need to cut costs and emissions, as well as the chance to clean or polish up their image."

Ian Wainwright, Head of Freight and Fleet at Transport for London (TfL), said: "We are very pleased to have helped create this useful guide, which will help improve the environment and reduce operator costs. By matching different sized fleets to the most appropriate low-emission vehicle, any operator can make an informed purchasing decision and reap the benefits."

Barbara Stoll, Transport Campaigner, Greenpeace UK, said: "This is much more than just a useful tool for businesses who need commercial vans in their fleets and have to watch their fuel costs. It's another powerful demonstration that carbon efficiency and cost efficiency are not just compatible, but frequently go hand-in-hand. The beneficiaries will range from window cleaners to multinational logistics companies, and from our choking cities to our melting poles."

To download the Low Emission Van Guide and/or use the Carbon Calculator Tool, visit the Low Emission Van Information Hub at:

<http://www.lowcvp.org.uk/lev>

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Low Emission Van Guide and accompanying Low Emission Van Web Tool have been prepared by the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership in partnership with Cenex, Transport for London, SMMT, FTA, Royal Borough of Greenwich, Arval and Commercial Group Ltd.

As well as cutting CO₂ emissions, the main contributor to climate change, exhaust emissions from vehicles are one of the largest contributors to air quality problems in cities. Poor air quality is extremely harmful to health and many UK cities are putting in place measures to cut pollution from vehicles, including vans. London has introduced a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and will be introducing an Ultra-Low Emission Zone by 2020.

The UK Government is committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions and has introduced regulations and incentives to encourage ultra-low emission vehicle use by businesses and individuals including grants for plug-in vans. However there are many options available to van buyers and the guide aims to give a comprehensive picture of the potential choices.

About the LowCVP

The LowCVP (www.lowcvp.org.uk), which was established in 2003, is a public-private partnership that exists to accelerate a sustainable shift to lower carbon vehicles and fuels and create opportunities for UK businesses. Nearly 200 organisations are engaged from diverse backgrounds including automotive and fuel supply chains, government, vehicle users, academics, environment groups and others.

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