



LowCVP's Andy Eastlake

The benefits of green commercial fleets

Most readers, I think, will be familiar with the commercial or economic benefits of running a green fleet – lower fuel costs, improved efficiency and reduced maintenance costs etc – but what about the benefits of running green commercial fleets?

The SMMT recently reported that there are now over four million vans on UK roads and their sales are at the highest level ever seen. By a significant margin, these commercial vehicles are the fastest growing road transport sector in every respect including carbon impact.

Alongside this, the debates around air quality – which has focused on the use of diesel (dominant of course in commercial fleets) – Clean Air Zones, congestion, and migration from small trucks to vans, are putting immense pressure on van fleet operators.

Suppliers are responding to these challenges with Euro 6 versions being launched every week and an increasing array of alternative technologies from hydrogen dual fuel options to gas power, range extenders, fuel cells and, of course, an ever growing selection of promising electric options. It seems that there is now a 'perfect storm' brewing, which heralds a revolution in the market for 'green' vans.

The LowCVP is actively working to support this green transformation. We've been working for a while on the development of real-world test cycles which will enable us to evaluate properly all the options and these will be launched in the next few weeks. We're also working with OLEV and government funding bodies on the research needs for technology and potential incentive packages for operators.

Against this background we're delighted to be supporting the inaugural *GreenFleet* commercial event in Birmingham on 1 July (the day after our own Annual Conference at the Olympic Park, London).

There will be much more to say between now and the event and we'll be updating our *Low Emission Van Guide*, and bringing the latest perspective on the commercial vehicle policy discussion.

I really sense that the benefits of greening commercial fleets are becoming more and more apparent and that a revolution in the carbon and air quality performance of commercial vehicles is nearly upon us. So maybe now is the right time to be 'greening our commercial fleets' and 'commercialising our green fleets'.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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