



## Andy Eastlake For the best advice – find someone who listens

By the time many of you read this *GreenFleet's* Rockingham Arrive 'n' Drive may be over, but hopefully you'll have had a chance to experience some of the latest low carbon vehicles and solutions first-hand. I'm certainly still excited whenever I get the opportunity to try a new car or that latest gadget and for me, as an engineer, there is nothing like hands-on experience to really understand "how stuff works".

But, like me, I'm sure many of you feel that you just don't have enough time to evaluate every new innovation and consider it in terms of your vehicle operations...which is where sound advice can really help. Getting good, independent information in a manageable form is one of the challenges we all face every day. So at the Arrive 'n' Drive this year, the LowCVP took part in the Sustainable Fleet Advice Centre together with our colleagues (and LowCVP members) from Millbrook, EST, BVRLA and EDF among others.

The opportunity to meet a group of experts with a broad range of skills and knowledge in one day is rare, so other forms of information such as labelling and approvals are a very good resource from which to build understanding. As you'll read elsewhere in this issue, the car fuel economy label has been revised to take account of the new vehicle types now available, EST has announced another round of its Plugged-In Fleet Initiative for 100 more companies, and LowCVP members are starting work on proposals for an accreditation scheme for low carbon vehicle technologies for use on trucks and HDV's. But for all of these initiatives there still remains the critical question of "What are your vehicles actually doing?" and that is something only you will know.

So whenever you are looking for advice or guidance probably the most important attribute you need, is someone who listens first! Unless you have clearly defined what your vehicles do it is impossible for anyone to give you the right advice; whether that is the showroom salesman or your fleet consultant, it should be based on a comprehensive sharing of information. As I always say, "The best solutions come from working in (a low carbon vehicle) partnership."

**FURTHER INFORMATION**  
[www.lowcvp.org.uk](http://www.lowcvp.org.uk)

Andy Eastlake is managing director of the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP)

## EVs

# West Midlands Police turns over 30 new Leafs

West Midlands Police has taken delivery of 30 Nissan LEAFs, in the UK's largest corporate LEAF deal to date.

Ten local policing units (LPUs) will run three 'diary car' LEAFs each, which will be used to attend pre-arranged meetings with victims of crime and locals who have contacted the police force. Diary cars average 40 to 45 miles per day, making the 124-mile range LEAF ideal for

the force's day-to-day needs. Dedicated charging points installed at each LPU will be used to charge the cars. Bob Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for West Midlands Police said: "We welcome the new LEAFs, which fit in perfectly with the operational requirements of diary cars and will significantly cut our fuel costs while also reducing our carbon footprint."



## EVs

# Manchester announces electric vehicle charging scheme

A new electric vehicle charging point network and pay as you go programme has been launched in the Manchester area, called Greater Manchester Electric Vehicle scheme (GMEV).

The initiative is led by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), who is working with local authorities to identify locations and install a range of charge points for EVs. Among the partners providing their own charging bays are NCP, Manchester Central, Manchester Metropolitan University, Salford University and the Intu Trafford Centre.

Customers can use the charging bays from July by registering through the TfGM website, where they will receive an access card in the post or choose to pay as you go by phone or mobile app.

Angie Robinson, chief executive of Manchester Central said: "We pride ourselves on being one of the most sustainable venues in the UK and we aim to be recognised as a global venue and benchmark for business tourism through excellence in sustainability."



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