

Tell the Government how to cut transport carbon emissions

Public consultation

The Department for Transport (DfT) has launched a public consultation on how to reduce carbon emissions from transport, to reach net zero by 2050. **It closes on 31 August, 2020**

Why this is important?

Road transport is the worst performing sector in the UK, and surface transport emissions have not fallen significantly since 1990. If transport emissions do not start falling rapidly and soon the UK will not be able to reach net zero emissions by 2050. The DfT is pinning its hopes on a Transport Decarbonisation Plan, including in its defence to our legal challenge to its £27 billion roads programme. So far there has been an over-reliance on electrification of the vehicle fleet to decarbonise transport. However [research by Transport for Quality of Life](#) has shown that electrification would not happen fast enough. We also need to urgently reduce traffic levels by between 20 - 60%.

How to respond

The consultation is in the form of a survey. You can [preview the questions](#) or go straight to answering the [questionnaire](#). Or you can send a simple email outlining your thoughts or concerns to: TDP@dft.gov.uk

Suggestions of what you could say...

Below are ideas as to what you might say against the various headings in the questionnaire. Please use your own words and add or subtract as you see fit. If you are just after a few key headlines to submit, look at the suggestions under **final comments** where we list the areas the Government should take clear leadership on and where it should stop making things worse.

Questionnaire suggestions

Share your views (reducing emissions from vehicles)

1. Cars and small vans - pursue traffic reduction alongside encouraging switch to electric vehicles and increase charging points
2. Larger vehicles - electrify or explore hydrogen alternatives
3. Passenger rail - speed up electrification
4. Aviation - introduce frequent flier levy
5. Freight - maximise shift from road to rail and water

Local journeys

1. Create better pedestrian facilities and build safe and convenient cycle networks to minimise carbon emissions.
2. Set up an e-bike subsidy programme (would increase viability of journeys up to 10 miles by bike)
3. Install more bus priority measures and improve bus stop environments (and reinstate bus services in rural areas)
4. Minimise car use in towns and cities

Longer journeys

1. Create an integrated public transport network with feeder bus services connecting with rail and with proper rural coverage
2. Electrify the railways
3. More affordable and fully integrated (bus & train) fares
4. Road traffic reduction
5. Encourage uptake of electric and other zero-emission vehicles by installing more charging points

Purchasing goods

1. Move freight off road to rail and water
2. Encourage uptake of local goods and services
3. Ban / repurpose out of town retail sheds
4. Ban / reduce HGV access to urban centres and encourage more electric vehicle / cargo bike deliveries

Travel choices

We suspect most people find it difficult currently to make informed travel choices based on emissions

Information to inform travel choices

Information should be broader than just about emissions, including air quality, and fitness / health impact

Final comments

Government should take clear leadership

1. Set mandatory carbon budgets for transport (separate for both surface transport and aviation) with a clear pathway to net zero at both a national and regional level
2. Set a road traffic reduction target nationally to give a clear steer that technical solutions are not enough
3. Create an affordable, clean and fully integrated sustainable transport network, including for rural areas, funded by road pricing
4. Create a fair and just transport system that doesn't leave people behind and improves public health and wellbeing
5. Increase faster broadband rollout, increasing speeds and capacity

Stop making things worse

6. Repurpose money for roads from RIS2 and other funding streams into positive solutions that will reduce emissions
7. Fully integrate sustainable transport into planning and stop enabling car dependent developments