

Reducing Emissions: Why Reduce Emissions?



Motor Vehicle Emissions Reduction

Motor vehicles are responsible for both greenhouse gas emissions and air toxic emissions.[□]

There are direct benefits to vehicle owners and broader community in emissions reduction, and the various emission reduction strategies often present attractive co-benefits.

Operational Savings and Productivity

Efficient vehicles use less fuel, meaning lower greenhouse gas emissions and lower fuel costs.

For some businesses, less fuel use may also translate to a reduced expense under the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future[□] (carbon pricing) plan.

When less fuel is consumed, not only is less money spent on fuel purchases, less time is spent refuelling. That means more time for core business.

Health and Safety

Exposure to air toxic emissions from motor vehicles is higher where vehicles are concentrated and where ventilation is limited – for example, depots and warehouses.

Choosing cleaner vehicles and ensuring idling is avoided where possible may help to reduce exposure to air toxics and the associated health and amenity impacts.

Reflecting Corporate Values

Many organisations have made corporate commitments to reduce their environmental impacts, often with explicit commitments around greenhouse gas reduction. Of course, reducing impacts at least cost – preferably with cost reductions – is desirable.

Transport companies, in particular, may also have corporate commitments to minimise impacts on their staff and the community by reducing air toxic emissions.

Low emission vehicles can typically be incorporated into fleets with associated savings. The nature of the transport task will determine how far cost-effective emissions reductions strategies can be pushed.

Preparedness and Risk Mitigation

Through industry innovation, consumer demand and Australian Government policy, vehicles in Australia are becoming more efficient. New low emission vehicle

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technologies and fuels are regularly emerging.

For fleets, a managed transition to lower emission vehicles offers the chance to become familiar with a range of vehicles and to best match vehicles to the transport task.

Efficient vehicles, and vehicles compatible with a broader range of fuels, offer a degree of hedging against movements in fuel prices.

For example, some vehicles can operate on petrol, E85 or any petrol/ethanol blend in between. Some offer LPG or petrol compatibility. Others can operate on either electricity or liquid fuels. Using such vehicles gives flexibility in fuel choice.

At a fleet level, a mixture of vehicle types and fuel compatibility may help to mitigate the risk of fuel price movements.

Larger companies may make use of low emission vehicles to assist them with managing their obligations under various Australian Government schemes such as Energy Efficiency Opportunities reporting and the Clean Energy Future plan.

Competitive Advantage

In industries such as long-haul freight, couriers and passenger transport, fuel use represents a substantial portion of the cost of service. Businesses that use efficient vehicles, simply, have lower operating costs.

Increasingly, clients are requesting their suppliers, including freight and passenger transport, to demonstrate emissions reductions when tendering for contracts.

Efficient and cleaner vehicles may provide the edge over competition and improve business profitability.

Employer of Choice

Companies that offer ongoing staff development and demonstrate a commitment to staff well-being are likely to be a more attractive employer and, therefore, have more success in attracting and retaining qualified staff.

Ecodriving⁵ training for professional drivers, low emission vehicle service training for mechanics and a demonstrated commitment to reducing greenhouse gases and exposure to air toxic emissions may help position your company as an employer of choice.

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See Also:

- [Ecodriving](#)
- [Reducing Emissions](#)
- [Reducing Emissions: Vehicle Emission Types](#)
- [Reducing Emissions: Vehicle Selection](#)
- [Reducing Emissions: Vehicle Use and Operation](#)
- [Reducing Emissions: Refuelling / Recharging](#)
- [Reducing Emissions: Maintenance and Tyres](#)
- [Reducing Emissions: Aerodynamics and Loading](#)
- [Reducing Emissions: Low Emissions at Low Cost](#)
- [Reducing Emissions: Offsetting Emissions](#)

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