

# The case for ultra-low emission vehicles

How the cost of going green may be a lot less than you think.

‘Going green’ may be increasingly gaining in popularity for larger companies looking to maintain an image. But for small businesses it has historically been less of a priority, due to concerns over the additional cost of opting for greener vehicles.

**“There is now a huge variety of Alternatively Fuelled Vehicles available for businesses to lease.”**

But that has all changed in recent years as vehicle manufacturers respond to increasing demands for improved economy and lower emissions as well as improved everyday functionality and lower prices.

In fact there is now a huge variety of choice for businesses, ranging from 100% electric and plug-in hybrids, such as the Tesla Model S and Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV or even the Renault Kangoo Z.E. van, and the latest, more practical, generation of full hybrid models like the Nissan LEAF and Toyota Prius.

For small businesses, there are several benefits of running ultra-low emission vehicles:

- Lower fuel bills
- Lower CO2 emissions
- Lower/zero road tax
- Lower company car tax
- 100% capital allowances; and
- The possibility of 100% exemption from the London Congestion Charge.



Businesses can also receive help with the typically higher purchase prices of ultra-low emission vehicles in the form of the Plug-in Car and Van Grants from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) for applicable vehicles.

And then there are the latest crop of petrol and diesel-engined cars and vans, which offer ever-lower emissions.

For a small business, it can be hard to know where to start but the key issue, as always, must be fitness for purpose, in particular when it comes to commercial vehicles and load-carrying.

Once you have benchmarked any specific requirements for your vehicles, you will then need to look at day-to-day operational requirements, such as distance covered. This can help to assess whether models such as electric vehicles – which typically have a range of around 100 miles between full overnight charges – could be used. It’s also essential to look at where the vehicle/s are being run, as access to charging points means that electric vehicles could still prove viable.

After assessing operational requirements, you can then go ahead to compare any potential different fuel types. However, with the cost structures for such vehicles varying widely, the only realistic way to compare these vehicles

is to look at whole life costs to take such variables into account.

As such a process can prove time-consuming, particularly for small businesses with other priorities, it could be worth considering turning to a fleet specialist such as Lombard Vehicle Solutions to provide advice, using specialist software to carry out the financial modelling.

There are other options available too, such as the free advice from the Energy Saving Trust, including its online Fleet Health Check and Sustainable Transport Review.

And of course, it’s also important to bear in mind other ways that your business can ‘go green’, such as minimising vehicle usage and utilising vehicles more efficiently, which can also significantly cut fuel consumption and emissions.

**“Going green isn’t necessarily all about vehicle choice, it’s also about smarter, safer driving.”**

If you would like to find out more about what Lombard Vehicle Solutions could do for you, or would like to see our vehicle special offers, please click [here](#).

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