

A Greener Car

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It would be great if we lived in a world with zero pollution, cities and towns with perfect infrastructures and 90 percent public transport usage. Or perhaps each city using Amsterdam as the blueprint with sheds full of bicycles.

This is not the case. But a great deal of innovation is happening all around us. We do have choices . We can opt to liftshare, take public transport or get there under our own steam. But until we live in a greener society, it is accepted that there will always be cars of some nature.

What should we look for when considering a new car and which models are best. We check out the main points when buying a responsible car.

Try to choose a cleaner car

Focus on a car's emissions (expressed as grams per kilometre of carbon dioxide, or g/km of CO₂) and its economy (miles per gallon, or mpg). Low emissions, high economy is the name of the game. What about the manufacture? Try to pick a make of car with a track record for environmental performance. Not all manufacturers are as green as they would like you to think. Do some homework.

Pick a clean-fuel car

Test drive a hybrid petrol-electric car, try Citroen's new C3 Stop & Start. You'd be surprised how good these new technologies are.

Keep your car for long periods

Forget about competing with with your peers by always buying a new car every year. It's easier than you think and it will save you money in the long run. Pick one you'll run for years, reducing the environmental cost of manufacturing. Keeping it well serviced and maintained , needless to say, also goes a long way to longevity.

The Top 10 Green Cars

These are listed due to the manufacturer's have put into place a special effort to improve fuel consumption (such as using hybrid technology) or some other environmental initiative (such as running on biofuels). Some of the cars may not be as practical as others for everyday family use. However, the cars appear because the manufacturers should be heralded for leading the field and making an effort to produce more environmentally-friendly vehicles.