# Save money and the environment

## with low-emission driving

## Parking advantages for low-emission cars

You will receive a 50 per cent discount on parking fees in Helsinki if you own a car that meets the low-emission requirements. The discount applies to all paid parking spaces in general traffic areas, as well as paid resident and corporate parking permits.

The discount can be applied for through the Urban environment sector´s customer service, where the emissions information of your car will be checked.

In order to avail yourself of the discount when using paid car parks you must pay the parking charge by mobile phone or Magee-payment device. You do not have to live in Helsinki to be eligible for the benefit.

The monetary value of the low emission discount will rise over the next few years as parking charges in Helsinki are increased in stages.

You can find more information (in Finnish) on the City of Helsinki website www.hel.fi/www/helsinki/fi/kartat-ja-liikenne/pysakointi/vahapaastoisten_alennus

## Low-emission criteria
(from 1st January 2017)

| Fuel/ energy source | Carbon dioxide emissions ($CO_2$) | EU emission standard |
|---|---|---|
| petrol cars (incl. hybrids) | max. 100 g/km | at least Euro 5 |
| diesel cars (incl. hybrids) | max. 50 g/km | at least Euro 5 |
| bifuel cars (gas cars) | max. 150 g/km | at least Euro 5 |
| flexifuel cars (ethanol cars) | max. 150 g/km | at least Euro 5 |
| **Also:** | | |
| Electric cars | | |
| Electrically operated class L vehicles, which have been registered for road traffic use | | |

## Driving costs

In addition to parking charges, the costs of driving include:

- the purchase price of the vehicle and car tax
- capital expenditure, road tax and insurance
- maintenance and MOT tests
- small fittings, cleaning and tyres
- fuel

Consider whether you need to buy your own car, especially if your annual mileage would be low. Public transport, cycling and walking, along with renting a car, carpools, taking a taxi, or using a car-sharing scheme could suit your needs just as well.

If you do end up purchasing your own car, you should pay particular attention to fuel consumption and emissions, as well the level of fittings. All of these have a direct impact on costs and the environment. In the future, having the option to use alternative fuels could increase the resale value of the car.

**Car tax**
The car tax payable in connection with purchasing a car is determined based on the car's carbon dioxide emissions.

**Road tax**
The annual road tax consists of a basic tax and a tax on motive force, which is charged on cars not running on petrol.

Basic tax
For cars and vans the basic tax is also based on emissions, on the basis of the carbon dioxide emissions stated by the car's manufacturer. Older vehicles (registered before 2001–2002) are taxed based on their weight.

Tax on motive force
Cars, vans and lorries that use a fuel other than motor petrol are subject to a tax on motive force included in the road tax. Diesel vehicles are subject to the highest tax on motive force.

**Fuel**
Fuel taxation is based on environmental criteria, and is dependant on the fuel's energy content, the carbon dioxide emissions it causes, and local emissions that weaken air quality. Taxation on petrol and diesel comprises an excise duty, i.e. fuel tax, and VAT.

## Save with alternative energy sources...

Alternatives to the traditional petrol and diesel include ethanol, natural gas, and electricity. Bio-components are subject to less tax than fossil fuel-based oil products. No fuel tax is charged on natural gas.

In addition to lower fuel costs, the benefits of alternative energy sources include lower emissions, and therefore lower taxes. Using biofuels lowers both emissions that weaken air quality and carbon dioxide emissions. The use of bio-components does not involve the use of fossil fuels. For example, ethanol is produced from waste and food scraps, and biogas is attained from sources such as landfills and waste water treatment plants.

Cars running on electric engines do not produce any exhaust emissions at all, and noise emissions are very low. The carbon dioxide emissions of electric cars depend on how the electricity has been produced. Hybrid cars have both a combustion engine and an electric engine, and they are more efficient than traditional cars.

## ...and a low emission car

By purchasing a low emission petrol car (max. 100 g $CO_2$/km) instead of an old vehicle with averidge consumption (160 g $CO_2$/km), you could easily save over 1000 euros a year, and over 10,000 euros over 10 years in fuel and tax costs. In one year 800 kg less carbon dioxide emissions are produced, which is equivalent to approximately 15 per cent of a Helsinki resident's average annual total emissions. The carbon dioxide emissions produced in the manufacture of the car are offset fairly quickly. Of the car's emission's throughout its entire life cycle, 90 per cent are due to its use. Car fleet renewal also has a positive effect on the city's air quality, as the local emissions of new cars are significantly lower than those of old cars.

## Energy classes for cars

Energy labelling on cars shows a model's energy efficiency and emissions information in an easily understandable way. You can also find the energy labels for used cars by visiting Trafi's website (www.trafi.fi/en) using the car's registration number.

## $CO_2$ emission limits (g/km)

| | |
|---|---|
| ≤ 100 | A |
| 101–120 | B |
| 121–130 | C |
| 131–150 | D |
| 151–175 | E |
| 176–200 | F |
| ≥ 201 | G |

## What else can you do

- Leave your car at a Park-and-Ride facility and jump on board public transport, walk or cycle.
- Save fuel by driving economically, with average savings of up to 10%
- Combine journeys, choose remote working and remote services
- Carpool with a friend
- When choosing tyres, take into account the noise they will cause and their impact on fuel consumption
- Choose non-studded winter tyres. They cause less dust than studded tyres.
- Adjust your tyre pressure to the level recommended by the manufacturer. This will give the best possible wet grip and fuel efficiency

Helsinki

## For more information, please refer to:

The Finnish Transport Safety Agency Trafi
www.trafi.fi/en

- emissions information for new and used cars
- energy labelling for tyres
- driving taxes

HSL Park and Ride
www.hsl.fi/en/information/park-and-ride

Electric car charging points
www.sahkoinenliikenne.fi

Gas filling stations
www.gasum.fi

Ethanol filling stations
www.st1.fi

Information about smart travel and driving
www.motiva.fi/en

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Opening hours
Mon 8.15am–5pm
Tues–Thurs 8.15–4pm
Fri 10am–3pm