

GOING GREEN

You don't have to buy an eco-friendly new car to reduce your carbon footprint. Our guide takes you through the simple everyday steps to a less polluting driving lifestyle

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OPEN up any newspaper, and you won't be able to miss the sensationalist headlines slamming the car for the damage it's doing to the environment. Going green is top of the political agenda, and manufacturers have caught on, with a host of eco-friendly machines hitting the road, such as the Volkswagen Bluemotion range.

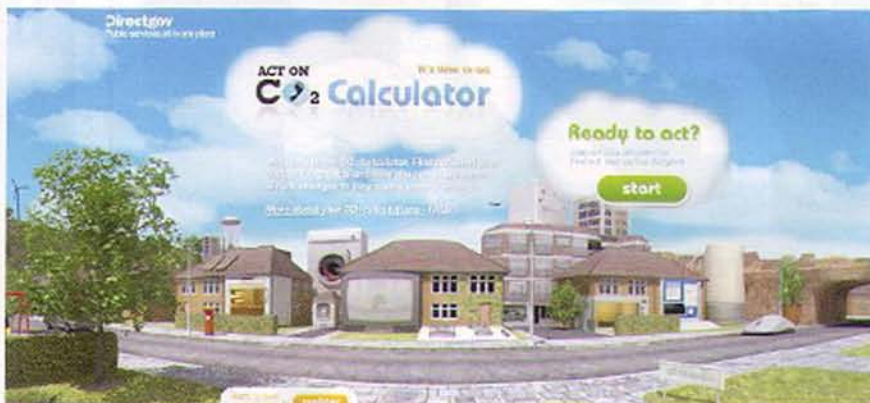
But what if you want to cut your carbon footprint without having to buy a new vehicle? Fortunately, there is still a lot you can do to help save the planet – and it doesn't have to mean walking everywhere!

Simply thinking about how and when you use your vehicle, the products you add to it and the way you look after it can make a real difference. A good place to start is the

Government's dedicated website, at www.direct.gov.uk/actonCO2 – this enables drivers to calculate their carbon footprint, and then compare it to the national average.

In an instant, you'll see that vehicle use is one of the worst contributors to your CO₂ output. But as the website points out, you can cut it by taking some simple steps: planning your trips to coincide with one another, not going out especially to buy fuel and sharing a commute can help.

Reducing your carbon footprint is not only about how and when you use your car, though – equally important is the way the vehicle is cared for, and the products you buy to do this. So we have listed 10 top tips to ensure your aftermarket choices are as planet friendly as possible.



Government's Act On CO₂ website provides tips on reducing the size of your vehicle's carbon footprint

1. CAR WASH

A CLEAN car might be a pretty car, but do you need to wash it every week? If you really want to spruce it up, use a bucket and sponge instead of a hose to save water – or cut it out completely with a waterless cleaning agent –

