

OPINION



# Climate Action

Submitted by  
Harborough  
Climate Action

## Drive less, drive better, drive electric

**I**n this article from Harborough Climate Action, we address how you can reduce the greenhouse gas emissions caused by driving your car.

Transport made up a huge 27 per cent of UK total emissions in 2019, with passenger car emissions accounting for 55 per cent of them. Despite improvements in car engine design, emission levels have remained the same for a decade because we drive further and faster than we used to.

**DRIVE LESS** – Most of our car journeys are short distance. Trips under five miles accounted for 59 per cent of the journeys we made in 2020 – going to the shops, visiting friends, for entertainment and commuting.

Swapping out even one short trip in the car a week and walking or cycling instead would start your

contribution to carbon reduction.

This would also give you plenty of exercise and time to think.

Why not walk a different route and avoid the busy traffic?

**DRIVE BETTER** – Often known as ‘hypermiling’, and save on your fuel bills and your carbon footprint.

The RAC recommends: regular servicing of your car, not driving too fast, gentle acceleration and changing to a high gear as soon as possible, and lightening the load.

Remember, just like your house, both the heating and the air conditioning in your car are consuming fuel.

See the RAC and Energy Saving Trust report *How To Save Fuel – The Ultimate Guide* for more information.

**DRIVE ELECTRIC** – Electric cars have zero tailpipe emissions

and if you switch to a renewable energy supplier for your electricity (or have solar panels), the usage of your car will be net zero carbon, amazing!

All new vehicles must be electric by 2030 but you could start thinking about it now.

They may seem expensive initially, but their running costs can be so much cheaper.

There are also more innovative approaches to having access to an electric car now – car share schemes, short period electric car hire, car leasing and, for example, new business On.To is offering the complete all-in monthly lease and charging package.

Such schemes are readily available in cities already, and hopefully will come to Market Harborough and area soon.

Don't let anxieties about range

and charging delay your move.

Smaller and older models are great for those short five-mile trips and easy to charge at the many charging points appearing across the Harborough district if you can't charge from home.

The latest models have longer ranges and the benefit of rapid charging, which can give a 100-mile boost to your battery range while you take a coffee break at the services.

For the very latest on electric car models and charging networks see Zap-Map.com or RAC Drive.

If you are holding out for a car that runs on hydrogen, that will be a great step forwards, but it is taking its time and we don't have too much of that available.

Visit our website [www.sustainableharboroughcommunity.co.uk/hca](http://www.sustainableharboroughcommunity.co.uk/hca) for more information.

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Easy Access Walk in Baths & Showers



# PENSION