



Environment & Climate Change

Vehicles

Issues

Most vehicles are still found in the highly industrialized countries of the OECD, but there are an increasing number of urban areas in developing countries which are rapidly expanding their vehicle use.

Much of this expansion is being facilitated by the exportation of [older, less expensive and polluting vehicles to developing and transitioning countries \(OECD\)](#). However, older vehicles more than ten years old generally pollute more than newer, which have new technologies, such as catalytic converters that reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. This issue poses a particular challenge for policy makers attempting to reconcile environmentally-friendly legislation with economic expansion.

Actions

Better technologies and practices are being applied to vehicles in order to promote sustainable transport. Governments and advocacy groups are promoting greener strategies such as:

- Vehicle Technology: Improve the performance of new cars and trucks to reduce their average CO2 emissions.
- Alternative Fuels: Support production of sustainable fuels and the infrastructure to deliver them.
- Driver Behaviour: Educate drivers on techniques to reduce fuel consumption and CO2 emissions, which can also improve road safety (www.ecodrive.org)
- Infrastructure Measures: Improve traffic flow and avoid wasteful congestion
- CO2-Related Taxation: Influence consumer choice to produce driving behaviour and purchase decisions for lower CO2 emissions
- Recycling: Steel and Iron (65% of the average vehicle) from vehicles can be recycled (<http://www.recycle-steel.org/>).



These efforts could contribute to less green house gas emissions, but the effect of more widespread use of vehicles, especially in the developing world, may mitigate the benefits.

More research concerning the future of vehicles in developing countries needs to be conducted in order to more fully realize the effects it could have on the environment.

For further information

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