

Built and Natural Environment: EIT Review

Potential fuel savings for SBC fleet

Eco Driver is an in-house training course aimed at improving both safety and economy for SBC's driving staff. The principal benefits of this training course are:

- reduced running costs – lower spend on fuel and vehicle maintenance.
- reduced wear & tear on the vehicles
- reduced driver stress
- reduced road risk both to drivers, and the public

and

- reduced emissions of greenhouse gases
- improved air quality, and lower noise levels

The course achieves this via 1:1 theory and practical coaching on the factors that affect safety and economy - the vehicle, journey and driving style.

Launched in June 2009, the first year results from the Eco Drive training course, show that improvements of 12-15% in fuel economy can be achieved by most drivers.

Evaluation of potential savings*

A 15% improvement for a driver averaging 15 miles per gallon would generate an annual fuel saving of **£654** and annual reduction in CO₂ of **1476kg**. (note – refuse collection vehicles achieve single figure mpg)

A 15% improvement for a driver averaging 40 miles per gallon would generate an annual fuel saving of **£245** and annual reduction in CO₂ of **554kg**.

Our fleet depends upon fossil fuels, with oil supplies declining and ever more demand for this resource, prices continue to rise. It is vital therefore, wherever possible to deliver these services as efficiently as possible. The current fleet fuel budget is approximate £1,000,000, a 15% fuel saving could generate a potential saving of £150,000 per annum (less the initial cost of the training the staff, £95 per person).

**based on an average driver travelling 12,000 miles., fuel @ £1.20/litre; 1 gallon of diesel fuel generates 12.3 kg CO₂.*