

## **Sustainable Ideford**

### **D is for Driving**

Living in a village with no public transport, we inevitably cause significant carbon dioxide emissions through driving. Action on Climate in Teignbridge (ACT) is an organisation set up to help Teignbridge Council follow through on its Climate Emergency Declaration, and estimates that 11% of Ideford emissions are from this source. So what can we do to reduce them?

Gradually, we will all have to get used to electric cars – in seven years time, no new petrol or diesel cars will be on the market. Several Ideford residents have gone electric: the experience of two of our group are described on page 10. We'd be interested to hear how other EV drivers have got on – tell us via Facebook or in the next issue of the News.

There was a time when the Government provided a discount on buying an EV and a grant to fit a fast-charger at home (you can use a normal 13 amp socket, but it's slower). Sadly, these subsidies have mostly been withdrawn, but it's worth watching out for new ones.

If you're not ready to make the leap to electric yet, are there other ways to cut your driving emissions, and save money on fuel? Driving style can make quite a difference: much less petrol is used coming up Telegraph Hill at 40 mph than at 60. Driving more smoothly, with less severe braking and acceleration certainly helps, as does keeping your tyres at the right pressure. It's estimated that having tyres at 28psi when they should be at 35 will increase fuel consumption by 4%, equivalent to a price increase of 6p a litre. There's further advice on this website:

**[energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/efficient-driving](https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/efficient-driving)**

Finally, there's the old wartime slogan "Is your journey really necessary?" We suggest the following ways to reduce car journeys:

- try not to go out in the car unless there are two or three things you can do in one trip (not always practical).
- share a car if you know someone else is going to the same meeting or event; could we turn this into a more formal Ideford Car-Sharing scheme?
- could we set up an easy way of checking with neighbours if they need anything when we are doing a supermarket shop?

**Let us know your views on these suggestions, either on Facebook (Ideford Village Life), or by email to Robin at [grandvizier51@gmail.com](mailto:grandvizier51@gmail.com)**