

**Press Release from Carplus.
For Immediate Use**

Carplus urges the Government to use carrots alongside the (tax) sticks in their attempt to reduce transport carbon emissions

Carplus, the national charity promoting car clubs and car sharing as part of a sustainable transport future, welcomes the increased acceptability of green taxes on transport, arising from the Stern Report, but also calls for schemes to be introduced which will enable people to reduce their carbon emissions, rather than just having to pay for them.

Philip Igoe, Co-director said: 'It is quite right that people should pay the full environmental cost of their transport choices, but alongside that we would hope to see measures introduced which will help people change the way they travel. Reducing carbon emitted is far more sensible than simply paying for unnecessary emissions.'

Carplus have submitted a proposal to Government which will enable people to make significant reductions in mileage driven without significantly affecting their mobility. Most people need to use a car occasionally, but once you have invested in buying one you end up using it for journeys which could easily be completed by other modes.

A national network of, neighbourhood based, car clubs will make a range of cars available on pay as you go basis, This will lead to a change in behaviour from members who will drive less, walk cycle and use public transport more. It will also save people money as they only pay for the car when they need it.

The Carplus proposal is currently being considered by Department for Transport ministers and officials.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

The Carplus proposal will see the establishment of a network of car clubs across England, at a public cost of £12.5m spread over four years. The schemes will save over a tonne of CO₂ per annum for each member. The proposal projects a membership of almost 180 000 by the end of the fourth year, rising to over half a million after 9 years.

Carplus is a national charity, supported by the Department for Transport and Defra, which urges a rethink of car use. Recognising the benefits of the car the organisation seeks to minimise the financial and environmental burdens current patterns of car use place upon society.

Carplus is developing a programme of responsible car use, including a national network of car clubs and car sharing alongside other suitable measures to complement an acceptable sustainable transport system across the country.

Co-director, Philip Igoe, is available for further information, comment or interview on 0113 234 9299 or 07980 600594

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