

MAYOR OF LONDON

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Mayor delivers online checker to help car buyers choose cleaner cars

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- **Cleaner Vehicle Checker will let motorists know the 'real' pollution emissions from new cars**
- **World-leading scheme will avoid 'dieselgate' false car claims**
- **Move comes just days before T-Charge starts next week**

Five days before he introduces a ground-breaking new toxicity charge (T-Charge) in central London, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has delivered a new online car checker designed to help motorists buy brand new cars with the cleanest, least-polluting engines.

The Mayor wants to help restore public confidence following the 'dieselgate' scandal, in which many Londoners wrongly brought 'cleaner' cars in good faith but later found out they had dirty polluting engines because of defeat devices or the official testing process not reflecting emissions in 'real world' conditions.

The world's first Cleaner Vehicle Checker will provide an independent rating of nearly all new Euro 6 standard cars and many vans being sold in UK showrooms in London.

The checker can be accessed at www.london.gov.uk/cleaner-vehicle-checker and is easy to use: consumers just need to type in details of a new vehicle model to find out how it performed in the independent tests.

The scheme will empower consumers, who have previously had no way of knowing whether a vehicle is performing as intended when driven in 'real world' conditions.

The type of car Londoners choose to buy can make a big difference to the level of pollution in the capital. The Cleaner Vehicle Checker will rate new (euro 6 standard cars) on a scale of A+ (best) to H (worst) based on the level of NOx emissions they produce on the road.

London's businesses and local authorities will also be able to use a customised 'Fleet Check' service to learn more about the emissions performance of their car and van fleets. By providing details online, operators can identify their most polluting vehicles and consider ways to replace these with much cleaner options as part of their procurement.

Recent research has revealed 7.9 million Londoners live in areas exceeding World Health Organization air quality guidelines. The Cleaner Vehicle Checker forms part of Sadiq's hard-hitting plans to tackle London's toxic air quality, which include the new £10 toxicity charge (T-Charge), to be introduced alongside the congestion charge in central London from Monday 23rd October.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said: "We are days away from the start of the new T-Charge in central London and with sales of diesel cars falling, motorists are more aware than ever about the pollution levels of the cars they drive. Our toxic air is a shameful health crisis and London motorists deserve to know how much filthy emissions new cars may produce before they purchase them.

"The Cleaner Vehicle Checker will help provide the accurate and independent information Londoners need to make informed choices and opt for cleanest vehicles.

"This scheme shows how the combined efforts of academic, engineering and health experts can join together to help consumers and ultimately help improve air quality."

Vehicles will be subjected to robust and independent emissions tests provided by Emissions Analytics through Portable Emissions Measurement Systems (PEMS) and the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) through roadside testing to scrutinise the performance of vehicles.

Emissions Analytics is a well-respected independent vehicle testing company, which has which has developed the EQUA Index database of 'real world' emissions based on urban driving environments for the majority of new cars sold in the UK, France and other European countries. It has conducted extensive 'real world testing' on around 900 models of vehicles in Europe.

Nick Molden, Chief Executive Officer of Emissions Analytics, said: "The decision to use PEMS and real-world emissions data to identify the genuinely cleanest cars is a hugely important step in tackling the issue of urban air quality. London is leading the way in taking this common-sense approach and the EQUA Index ratings, as part of the Cleaner Vehicle Checker, will help car buyers make informed decisions, rather than simply relying on inaccurate official figures."

ICCT are the organisation that revealed that Volkswagen had used so-called 'defeat devices' to pass official emissions tests. It is recognised as an international leader in vehicle emissions testing.

Drew Kodjak, Executive Director of the ICCT said: "London's action to publicise the real-world emissions of the vehicles being driven on their streets should inspire other cities as they battle the same urban air quality issues. I'm happy that ICCT is able to support London's important work in this area. Our collaboration with FIA Foundation, C40 Cities and others on in-use emissions measurement and reporting in The Real Urban Emissions (TRUE) initiative will bring an unprecedented and badly needed transparency to this critical environmental and public health issue."

Today's launch coincides with a roadside testing programme in partnership with the TRUE Initiative (whose members include the FIA Foundation and ICCT), which will monitor emissions from older cars currently driven on London's roads. This data will be used to create a further 'Used Vehicle Checker' function in 2018.

Sheila Watson, Deputy Director of the FIA Foundation, said: "FIA Foundation is delighted to support this vital work to provide Londoners with evidence about the true emissions of the vehicles they drive. Our Real Urban Emissions Initiative (TRUE) is an open, transparent and innovative way to build picture of the real toxicity of vehicles on our city's streets. This information is essential if consumers are to make informed choices and policymakers are to improve the impact of these vehicles on the health of everyone who breathes London's air."

Cllr Julian Bell, Chair of *London Councils'* Transport and Environment Committee, said: "London Councils welcomes the Mayor's Cleaner Vehicle Checker. Given the seriousness of air pollution in London and with the introduction of the T-Charge coming on 23 October, it is important that London's residents and businesses are supported to make decisions with the most up-to-date data sets that have been independently verified when looking to buy new vehicles. Air pollution is a public health crisis and we collectively need to clean London's vehicles to start tackling this."

Mayor of Paris and Chair of C40, Anne Hidalgo, said: "London, Paris and every city around the world are facing an air pollution crisis, which is a major public health crisis. Our citizens demand urgent action to clean the air that they breathe. That is why cities like Paris and London are leading the way in delivering bold and audacious policies like this initiative launched by my friend Mayor Khan today."

Sam White, Managing Director Critical Services, Babcock International Group, said: "Babcock is delighted to support the Mayor's new Cleaner Vehicle Checker scheme. We work in close partnership with our customers to improve emission standards in our fleets as well as working with vehicle manufacturers and suppliers towards this goal."

Notes to editors

- To access the Cleaner Fleet Checker visit <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/pollution-and-air-quality/cleaning-londons-vehicles>
- The European Union is introducing 'real-world driving emissions' (RDE) testing to help improve Euro standards – but these still include significant flexibility with manufacturers allowed to emit up to 1.5 times the legal limits even once the new requirements are fully introduced in 2021, which is still four years away. Consumers cannot currently rely on Euro standards alone with confidence and improvements would take a number of years to take effect.
- The 'Cleaner Fleet Checker' service will help businesses adopt the cleaner vehicle rating system as part of their procurement policies to ensure any diesel or petrol vehicles brought into fleets are as clean as possible. Fleet managers will be able to download, complete and submit a template with their fleet details through the Cleaner Fleet Checker webpage to receive an analysis report showing the emissions performance of the fleet if all the existing cars and vans were replaced with the latest Euro 6 models of the same. This will enable fleet managers to identify their worst polluting vehicles and prioritise them for replacement with cleaner options. New cars and vans available for purchase in the UK will be added within two months of their release dates.