

## KICKING THE CO<sub>2</sub> HABIT

Interleasing is urging Australian fleets to support World Environment Day on 5 June by taking a number of simple steps to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. As part of its ongoing commitment to tackling climate change, the international fleet management company is encouraging businesses to 'kick the CO<sub>2</sub> habit' in a bid to reduce the environmental impact of their fleets and global fuel bills.

As a result, Interleasing, part of the international Masterlease Group, which operates in 17 countries around the world, has developed six steps that businesses can follow to reduce the carbon footprint and fuel expenditure from their vehicle fleets:

1. What is measurable is manageable. Using your fleet's data, measure your fleets emissions when deciding which vehicles best meet your fleet needs. For companies that use a fuel card for fleet fuel purchases, data gathering is simple and establishes a fleet baseline, which can then be used to set goals to reduce the environmental impact of the fleet.
2. Reduce driver mileage by making sure alternatives are available and understood by all employees including:
  - a. Car sharing for commuting and business travel
  - b. Public transport links are publicised
  - c. Short term vehicle hire or pool cars will provide insurance risk cover and ensure business mileage is done in the most economical vehicles
  - d. More video and tele-conferencing
  - e. Better journey planning
3. Review your Motor Vehicle Policy to consider 'fit for purpose' options. Consider different makes, models and engine options as petrol, diesel engines and hybrid options have different effects on the environment. Most new cars have a fuel efficiency rating which assists in fleet selection.

4. Vehicles perform to their best when properly serviced. Ensure all vehicles are maintained according to the manufacturer's recommended schedule.
5. Encourage drivers to check tyre pressures regularly. Under/over inflated tyres can impact on fuel economy and safety.
6. Reduce what you can, offset what you can't. Offsets are a somewhat controversial topic but we have found that companies that are considered leaders in addressing environmental issues use offsets, but only after they have made reductions within their business. As there are no "climate neutral" vehicles on the road today, our suggestion is that companies look to make the most cost-effective reductions they can, then offset the remaining emissions of their fleet. There are a number of viable offset opportunities, but it's imperative to seek good advice on which have delivered proven value to the environment.

The latest research by the Masterlease Group has shown that unfortunately the environment is still not a major factor for fleet decision-makers across the world when looking at strategic vehicle procurement. In fact, the environment was regarded as a low priority amongst almost all of those 2,600 people surveyed despite it being currently so high on the political and business agendas around the world.

Michael Mitrovits, MD of Interleasing, comments:

"Climate change is the single biggest environmental issue facing the world today, and it is one that needs to be taken seriously by organisations no matter how big or small. Greening your fleet needn't be an onerous process as there are a number of simple steps that businesses can take in order to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions - from vehicle selection, to mileage reduction and driver education.

"With ever increasing fuel bills, we are urging fleets across Australia to support World Environment Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 to reduce their carbon footprint and achieve cost savings across the board."

Interleasing is committed to helping its customers reduce the environmental impact of their fleets. From vehicle selection, to mileage reduction and driver education, Interleasing's experts can advise you on how to monitor and minimise the carbon

footprint and fuel expenditure of your vehicle fleet, whilst maintaining employee satisfaction.

**Ends**