SMMT’s 17th Annual New Car CO₂ Report shows the UK Automotive industry’s progress in reducing CO₂ emissions from new cars.

New car fleet average CO₂ has fallen significantly over the last decade. CO₂ emissions in 2017 new cars, on average, had 12.6% lower CO₂ than older models.

The shift away from diesel is in part responsible for this and although there is an ever-increasing range of alternatively fuelled vehicles (AFVs) on the market, encouraging greater uptake will be crucial to meet climate change goals and industry targets.

New car fleet average CO₂ has decreased across all segments.

Download the SMMT New Car CO₂ Report 2018: www.smmt.co.uk/CO2report
MIKE HAWES, SMMT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The industry shares government’s vision of a low carbon future and is investing to get us there – but we can’t do it overnight; nor can we do it alone. The anti-diesel agenda has set back progress on climate change, while electric vehicle demand remains disappointingly low amid consumer concerns around charging infrastructure availability and affordability. To accelerate fleet renewal, motorists must have the confidence to invest in the cleanest cars for their needs – however they are powered. A consistent approach to incentives and tax, and greater investment in charging infrastructure will be critical. Now, more than ever, we need a strategy that allows manufacturers time to invest, innovate and sell competitively, and which gives consumers every incentive to adapt.

WHY THE RISE?

The shift away from diesel is in part responsible, and although there is an ever-increasing range of alternatively fuelled vehicles (AFVs) on the market, uptake of them is not enough to fill the gap.

NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS 2017

In 2017, AFV registrations continued to rise, up 34.8%. They took 4.7% of the market with zero-emission battery electric vehicles and fuel cell electric vehicles taking 0.5%.

Meanwhile, although diesels, on average, emit 15-20% less CO₂ than petrol equivalents, their market share slipped to 42% as sales fell 17.1%.

KEY FACTS

Zero-emission Battery Electric Vehicles and Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles took a 0.5% share

AFVs emitted on average 44% lower CO₂ than the market average

The average new Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV, or van) emitted 165.6g/km in 2017 4.8% below the 2016 level a significant pick up in the rate of improvement 16.6% down on 2011