



## Promoting low-emission transport

The main source of air pollutant emissions in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area is transport, which causes exceedances of air quality limit values along the busiest streets in the city centre. Transport also accounts for about a fifth of the greenhouse gas emissions in the area. Reducing the environmental effects of transport is one of the city's strategic goals. Promoting low-emission transport is one way of working towards this goal.

On 31 May 2010, Helsinki City Board approved a proposal by the city's air protection working group on promoting low-emission vehicles. In this decision the city set criteria for low-emission passenger cars and implemented measures to promote low-emission transport. These criteria were reviewed in 2013 and slight adjustments were made. The new criteria will apply in 2014 - 2015.

### Which are low-emission vehicles?

According to the city's low-emission criteria, the carbon dioxide emissions of petrol and diesel vehicles must be 100 g/km or lower and their regulated emissions must meet the Euro 5 standard.

Gas and ethanol cars are allowed higher carbon dioxide emissions (max 150 g/km) than petrol and diesel cars because these car types can use waste-based biofuels, such as ethanol and biogas.

All full-electric cars and full-electric moped cars are classified as low-emission vehicles..



## Low-emission vehicles can be parked at half the price

The residents are encouraged to switch to low-emission vehicles by giving them parking benefits. The city grants a 50% discount on parking fees to all vehicles meeting the low-emission criteria. The discount applies to all paid parking spaces in general traffic areas (ticket machine and parking meter parking spaces) as well as to paid parking for residents and companies. In order to avail themselves of the discount, car owners must visit the customer service of the Public Works Department where the vehicle is marked with a green sticker.

When purchasing vehicles, the city departments must also apply the low-emission criteria. Low-emission vehicles are favoured when ordering taxis and joint-use vehicles for office use.

## More charging spaces for electric cars

The city of Helsinki is involved in a national project promoting the use of electric cars. Charging points for full-electric cars and chargeable hybrids will be built in the city centre and in some park-and-ride



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facilities. Electric bikes are already available for office use in several city departments.

## Only low-emission buses and waste trucks in the environmental zone

In order to improve the air quality in the city centre, an environmental zone has been established in Helsinki. The zone pertains to the internal and regional bus traffic of Helsinki submitted to competitive tendering by HSL (Helsinki Regional Transport Authority) as well as to the waste management submitted to competitive tendering by HSY (Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority). HSL and HSY have set separate emission criteria for

buses and waste trucks in the environmental zone. The criteria have to be met when competitive tendering takes place for the buses and waste trucks circulating in the environmental zone. The environmental zone covers the central city area. An environmental bonus is available for contractors who reduce their emissions by for example using biofuels.

### More information:

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