

Black Isle drivers cut their fuel consumption through expert training

Drivers in Muir of Ord have benefitted from fuel efficiency training as part of Transition Black Isle's Million Miles project. The campaign aims to help local residents find better ways to travel locally by improving access to public transport, increasing active travel and encouraging lift-sharing, with the overall target of reducing car travel on the Black Isle by 1% - approximately one million miles.



The Black Isle is a rural, sparsely-populated area and many residents live a distance from public transport routes, so the Million Miles project is also helping drivers find ways to get as many miles out of their fuel as possible. An average driver adopting more efficient techniques will typically reduce fuel usage and carbon pollution by 5-10%.

Typically 5-10%
saved through fuel
efficient driving

The Energy Saving Trust offers heavily subsidised one-to-one training sessions so drivers can receive personalised advice according to their driving style. The sessions – offered for free to members of Transition Black Isle – were delivered by DriveSense on behalf of the local Energy Saving Scotland advice centre in August 2012.



DriveSense Instructor Orlando Colleso provided clear – and patient! – guidance to the drivers in 50 minute sessions, each of which consisted of three laps around Muir of Ord. The first lap was without any instruction, the second included guidance on how to drive more efficiently and the final lap measured the improvement in fuel economy.



The sessions provided food for thought for all of the drivers and some of the techniques will need practice to perfect. Alaine MacDonald took the first session of the day. She drives an automatic Honda Civic hybrid and was interested in finding out how to drive it as efficiently as possible.

“Accelerating and braking gently was a useful tip – I also need to use my mirrors more to anticipate road conditions and help avoid sudden stops.”

Alaine even managed to achieve her best ever fuel economy on the drive home!

On average, the six drivers achieved a final fuel economy of 57 mpg on their last lap – an average improvement of 17%. The biggest improvement by a single driver was 28%. The Energy Saving Trust provided a certificate to each driver, which includes a tailored estimate of the savings achieved according to the driver’s annual mileage and car model. The average fuel savings per year were equivalent to around £220 and 390kg of greenhouse gas emissions.

Average annual saving of £220 & 390kg of carbon pollution per driver

More information about fuel efficient driver training sessions is available from the Energy Saving Trust (www.energysavingtrust.org.uk). Advice on other ways to cut travel costs is also available from their Transport Specialists – call on 0800 512 012.

Before you go

Vehicle maintenance

Keep tyres inflated
Top up engine oil

Reducing weight and drag

Take out heavy and bulky items
Remove unused roofboxes and bike racks

Out on the road

Basic driving techniques

Don't leave your engine idling
Change through gears early
Reduce your top speed

Advanced driving techniques

Drive more smoothly to avoid fast acceleration and harsh braking
Anticipate road conditions



Visit our website for more information about the Million Miles project

www.transitionblackisle.org