

Jim Tolson MSP for Dunfermline West – Scottish Liberal Democrat

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TOLSON TAKES ECO-DRIVING CHALLENGE

Local MSP Jim Tolson took an eco-driving challenge set up by the Energy Saving Trust in Scotland as part of a three-year campaign to encourage Scots commuters to drive in a more economical manner. Using eco-driving techniques devised by the Energy Saving Trust, Jim Tolson MSP managed to save 15 per cent on fuel when driving a designated course near to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh.

Jim said: "When the Energy Saving Trust asked me to take part in their eco-driving challenge, I was pleased to take them up on it. By following a few simple tips from the eco-driving instructor I was able to change my driving habits from 16 MPG to 48 MPG on the same circuit. I'll now put these tips to good use in my daily driving.

I am delighted to have supported the Energy Saving Trust's eco-driving campaign – it reminds us all of the importance of taking small steps to save energy in our daily lives. This is not only good for reducing our carbon emissions, but also good for the pocket; a welcome boost for everyone in the current economic climate."

Ends

Notes to Editor

1. Funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by the Energy Saving Trust, the *Eco-drive Scotland* campaign is targeting commuters as they are driving to and from work through a combination of filling station, billboard, breakfast and drivetime radio advertising. In addition, a website – www.ecodrivescotland.com – has been set up where drivers can learn more about eco-driving. People can also call freephone 0800 512012 for free, local advice on eco-driving.
2. The campaign focuses on four key pieces of advice for motorists. These are:
 - Shift to as high a gear as possible: driving at lower engine speeds reduces fuel consumption: change up between 2000 and 2500 rpm.
 - Anticipate road conditions and drive more smoothly: rather than last minute braking, decelerate smoothly by releasing the throttle as early

as possible. This allows the car to decelerate using engine braking. With the car in gear and throttle release, a modern car uses virtually no fuel at all.

- Maintain a steady speed in as high a gear as possible: driving at a steady speed requires little effort for the engine. Avoiding unnecessary acceleration and heavy braking helps reduce fuel consumption.
- Drive a little slower than your normal speed: stick to the speed limits and make your fuel go further. For most cars the most efficient speed is between 45 and 50mph. Driving at 50mph rather than 70 mph reduces your fuel consumption by 10 per cent at a stroke.

3. The Energy Saving Trust is one of Scotland and the UK's leading organisations addressing the damaging effects of climate change. It aims to cut carbon dioxide emissions – the main greenhouse gas causing climate change – by promoting the sustainable and efficient use of energy.

The Energy Saving Trust in Scotland is part of a UK-wide non-profit organisation providing impartial information and advice. It manages a network of advice centres in Scotland specifically designed to help consumers take action to save energy.

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland