




## Newsletter - 1 November 2008

### Fleet Environmental Action and Assessment

#### EDITORIAL

A first-person perspective from the driver's seat of a car, looking out over a winding road through a green landscape under a blue sky. The steering wheel and dashboard are visible in the foreground.

Welcome to the FLEAT network, we are very happy to present you the first newsletter from the FLEAT project.

The energy consumption and related greenhouse gas emissions of the transport sector are still rising. To reduce the energy consumption, two major trends have to be achieved: the reduction of transport demand and the reduction of energy consumed per ton and passenger kilometer.

**FLEAT focuses on the reduction of energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions of fleets.** The share of fleet activities in total transport activities (mileage, number of vehicles, energy consumption) is increasing very rapidly. 'Private mobility' and 'fleet mobility' are very different: the decision process for purchasing and using vehicles in fleets is different from that of private vehicles. Because of the central and cost driven fleet management, opportunities for enhanced energy efficiency can be exploited to a maximum extent. The FLEAT project will explore these opportunities in three fields: fuels and vehicles, driving behaviour and mobility management. Concrete actions in the field will give insight in the impact that can be made with these measures in different types of fleets: passenger car fleets (lease cars), utility vehicle fleets (vans and trucks), fleets of public bodies and public transport fleets. A cost benefit analysis will be done based on the harmonised monitoring framework.

The FLEAT project ended the first phase of starting up: gathering tools and information on effective policies and the recruitment of pilot fleets with whom we will cooperate for the actions in the field. An interesting year lays before us of implementing actions in the field and learning from them. We hope you will keep your interest in the FLEAT project and support us bringing the knowledge and results to the broad public in the field of transport, fleets and energy efficiency.

Leen Govaerts, VITO, Coordinator FLEAT



FLEAT is a project funded by the European Commission under the Intelligent Energy Programme which started on 1 October 2007 and will last until 30 March 2010.

All information can be found on [www.fleet-eu.org](http://www.fleet-eu.org), please register to stay updated on the results.

Contact: [leen.govaerts@vito.be](mailto:leen.govaerts@vito.be)

The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Communities. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



**TOOLS** An important part of the FLEAT-project is about gathering and offering tools to assist fleet operators in lowering the energy demand of their fleet. During the first phase of the project, an inventory of these different tools has been made. We focussed on 3 types of measures: energy efficient vehicles, energy efficient driving behaviour and mobility management. Tools have been found for all of the different type of measures, and these will be made available on the website in an integrated toolbox. Fleet operators of different type of fleets (private fleets, public fleets, public transport fleets) will be able to find different tools that fulfil their needs.

Examples of tools are training manuals containing information on alternative fuels and vehicles, ecodriving courses and mobility management, joint procurement models, fleet scan tools. Also hardware devices that can monitor driving behaviour, online driving style tests, etc. will be in the toolbox.

Different tools will be tested in pilot actions, which will provide us with valuable information regarding cost effectiveness.

**PILOT ACTIONS** The pilot actions, which are the core field of the FLEAT project, have already started. Organised by the national teams, measures for five fleets are currently running, nine more are fixed and 29 are in negotiation.

Measures are implemented for passenger cars, vans and utility vehicles as well as for buses. It looks as if there will be a great variety of measures. The actions will cover the use of alternative fuels and drives, green purchase behaviour, energy efficient driving and several measures in the field of mobility management.

The pilot actions which are already running include interesting activities for large fleets such as that of the Austrian Federal Railways Group, which comprises approx. 4,000 passenger cars. Natural gas vehicles, hybrid vehicles and electric vehicles will be tested in the day-to-day operations, while energy demand, CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and cost effects will be exactly monitored.

In another pilot action, utility vehicles running with compressed natural gas (CNG) will be integrated into the fleet of the water supply and sewerage company of the city of Hamburg (Germany). In addition, the company will feed self-produced biogas that has been upgraded to natural gas standards into the gas grid of the city of Hamburg. Thus, virtual bio-methane, which is a carbon neutral fuel, will be used for the whole fleet of natural gas vehicles.

Another large company participating in FLEAT is the Greek branch of LeasePlan, which will perform eco-driving trainings. The first trainings have already taken place and showed excellent results: fuel consumption was reduced by 16%, while the average speed increased by 11%.

In the upcoming weeks and months more and more actions will take place, and be monitored within FLEAT. Regular updates of the status of pilot actions will be published on the website [www.fleat-eu.org](http://www.fleat-eu.org).



FLEAT is a project funded by the European Commission under the Intelligent Energy Programme which started on 1 October 2007 and will last until 30 March 2010.

All information can be found on [www.fleat-eu.org](http://www.fleat-eu.org), please register to stay updated on the results.

Contact: [leen.govaerts@vito.be](mailto:leen.govaerts@vito.be)

The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Communities. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.