Car clubs: improving air quality in London

Carplus Bikeplus has been collating data on car club membership for 10 years. We have documented the growth in car club membership and the number of cars removed from the roads as a direct result. This ten year growth in car club use coincides with a 25% fall in Londoners’ overall usage of cars.*

About the Carplus Annual Survey

The Carplus Annual Survey reports are the most comprehensive datasets collected across the car club sector. They have been collected on an annual basis for the past ten years. They provide a comprehensive, robust and impartial evidence base on which policy and funding priorities can be based. This year’s report presents data and analysis on the usage and impacts of flexible car club operators in London as well as data from round-trip operators. The Carplus Annual Survey for London is available online at www.carplus.org.uk.

IMPROVING AIR QUALITY

There are 193,500 car club members in London

Driving almost 3,000 of the cleanest cars.

Recently new forms of car sharing have become available – with the launch of flexible and one-way car club operators in several boroughs. They enhance the positive impact of car clubs in London.

REASONS FOR JOINING

When car club members join, they typically reduce their annual household mileage. They also cycle and walk more frequently than the London average.

Many members choose to give up a vehicle, with over 31,000 privately owned vehicles removed from the roads as a result of car club membership.

That’s enough to cover 62 football pitches!


18% of the car club fleet in London is electric or hybrid electric.

Each round-trip car club car replaces 10.5 vehicles removed from the road in the last 12 months.

Each flexible car club car replaces 13.4 vehicles removed from the road in the last 12 months.
Car club members walk, cycle and use public transport more:

ROUND TRIP CAR CLUB MEMBERS

- 23% are regular cyclists (compared with 9% LTDS)*
- 62% use the underground at least once a week (compared with 37% LTDS)*
- 33% use the train at least once a week (compared with 16% LTDS)*

FLEXIBLE CAR CLUB MEMBERS

- 32% are regular cyclists (compared with 9% LTDS)*
- 58% use the underground at least once a week (compared with 37% LTDS)*
- 31% use the train at least once a week (compared with 16% LTDS)*

Ten Year Trends

- 765% growth in car club membership across the UK over 10 years – from 32,000 members in 2007/8 to over 245,000 members in 2016/17.
- Over a quarter of a million cars sold by car club members in ten years.
- Car clubs have almost eliminated diesels from the car club fleet – from 71% of the fleet in 2012/13 to 5% in 2016/17.

CO₂ Reduction

- Car club membership reduces a Londoner’s transport carbon footprint by 73%.
- Car club vehicles typically produce 29% less CO₂ than the national average car.
- Car club members saved 49,220 tonnes of CO₂ last year.

Car clubs in the UK

- There are over 245,000 car club members with more than 4,000 vehicles in the UK.
- Car club members walk, cycle and use public transport more than the national average.
- Car clubs provide alternatives to car ownership, reducing the number of cars on the roads.

About Carplus Bikeplus

Carplus Bikeplus is an independent environmental transport charity working for accessible shared mobility, including car clubs, bike sharing and 2+ car sharing.

We work to change the way people travel to reduce the environmental impact of transport and improve access to transport for all. We support and encourage measures that promote shared mobility schemes which complement public transport, cycling and walking to provide affordable and flexible travel.