

## Reducing car emissions: new CO2 targets for cars explained



The EU is working on plans to cut cars' CO2 emissions ©APimages/European Union-EP

**To reduce car emissions MEPs have adopted tougher CO2 limits on cars. Here's what you should know the plans.**

### Why it is needed

Cars and vans produce about 15% of the EU's CO2 emissions, which contribute to climate change. Transport is the only sector in which greenhouse gas emissions are still higher than they were in 1990.

Toughening car emissions standards would help to achieve the [EU's climate targets for 2030](#) and consumers would save on their fuel bills.

## Current situation

Average emissions by new cars rose to 118.5g CO<sub>2</sub>/km last year following a steady decline over the past few years, according to [recent data](#). Under current rules, the average new car must not emit more than 95g/km by 2021.

The [number of electric cars](#) is growing fast, but they still make up less than 1.5% of new registrations.

## What is being proposed

The European Commission is [proposing](#) to reduce the 2021 limit for emissions by 15% from 2025 and by 30% from 2030. New targets are expressed in percentages because the 95 g/km standard will have to be recalculated according to the new more rigorous emissions test that better reflects real driving conditions.

In a plenary vote on 3 October, MEPs said emissions should be cut respectively by 20% and 40%, while 35% of new cars sold from 2030 should be electric or hybrid. They also called for EU measures to ease the automotive industry's shift to cleaner cars to help protect jobs and to support the production of electric car batteries in Europe.

## New targets

The European Commission proposed to reduce the 2021 limit for emissions from new cars and vans by 15% from 2025 and by 30% from 2030.

Parliament and Council agreed on even higher targets to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions a 37.5% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target for new cars and 31% for new vans by 2030. [The new rules were approved by MEPs](#) during the plenary session on 27 March 2019. On 18 April, MEPs also approved a proposal to [cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new trucks](#) by 30% by 2030 compared to 2019 emission levels.

## Find out more

[Post 2020 CO<sub>2</sub> emission targets for cars and vans \(April 2018\)](#)

[How cars are tested \(April 2018\)](#)

[Briefing: CO<sub>2</sub> standards for new cars and vans](#)

## Discover more EU measures to reduce carbon emissions

[The EU Emissions Trading Scheme and its reform in brief](#)

[Cutting EU greenhouse gas emissions: national targets for 2030](#)

[Climate change: using EU forests to offset carbon emissions](#)