



AUSTRALIAN
AUTOMOBILE
ASSOCIATION

ON THE ROAD TO greener motoring

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE GOES GREEN

Every year, the Australian Automobile Association clubs' 24 hours a day, seven days a week emergency roadside assistance services help nearly five million stranded Australians get going. Whether your car has broken down, you have a flat tyre or battery, or have locked the keys in the car, you can trust the motoring clubs to get you back on the road.

Australia's motoring clubs are world leaders in roadside assistance. In more than 90% of cases they are able to help their members get back on the road to continue the journey, without the need for a tow truck.

To ensure that roadside assistance is also environmentally sustainable, the AAA clubs are working to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from their roadside assistance vehicles.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a two-part process, involving (1) cuts to emissions and (2) purchasing carbon offsets to cover those emissions that cannot be eliminated (see chart below).

Activities to cut emissions include using vehicles that can run on less greenhouse intensive fuels. For example, LPG typically has around 20% less ozone forming potential (a measure of the tendency to generate photochemical smog), 10% to 15% lower greenhouse gas emissions, and only 20% of air toxic emissions compared to petrol.

Australia's largest roadside assistance provider, AAA-member club NRMA Motoring and Services will complete a switch to LPG powered vehicles by the end of 2008, while 63% of RACWA's fleet runs on LPG.

As part of their efforts to ensure prompt and reliable assistance for members, AAA clubs optimise their vehicles' travel patterns. This has the added benefit of reducing fuel consumption and emissions.

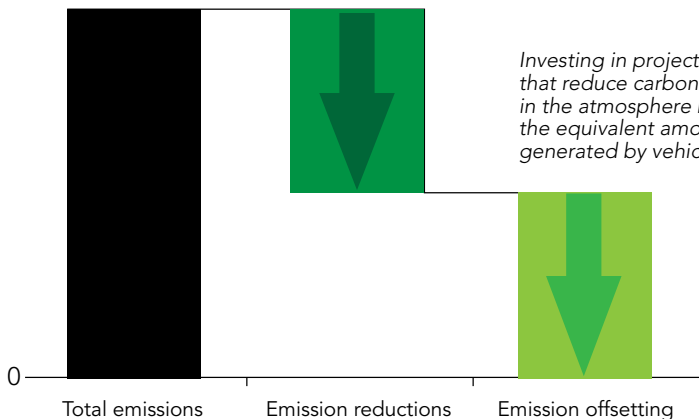
For emissions that cannot be eliminated, a number of AAA clubs have either purchased, or are considering purchasing, carbon offsets. This involves investing in a project that reduces carbon in the atmosphere by the equivalent amount generated by the vehicles' use.

The types of projects that clubs are investing in include household energy saving schemes such as installing efficient light globes; renewable energy schemes such as wind farms; or tree-planting schemes that can take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

Total greenhouse emissions can be reduced through reductions and offsetting

Using less greenhouse intensive fuels, more fuel efficient vehicles and efficient travel plans

Investing in projects that reduce carbon in the atmosphere by the equivalent amount generated by vehicle use



RACQ produces around 10,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year as its road service vehicles attend to around one million calls for emergency roadside help. To achieve carbon neutrality for its vehicles, some 40,000 trees will be planted in Queensland each year and other energy efficient and renewable energy offsets will be explored.



RAASA has successfully minimised the emissions generated by its emergency road service fleet in recent years through the use of dual-fuelled vehicles (ULP/LPG) – and the next step is offsetting the remaining emissions. RAASA will offset nearly 1,500 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in 2008 by investing in renewable energy coupled with the planting of trees, which will not only absorb and offset the emissions generated but help to tackle salinity problems, improve water quality and provide essential habitat for native species.

