

# Go Green

20 SMART METERS TO BE WON IN OUR COMPETITION!

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# PAUL LOVES HIS FIAT!

FIND OUT WHY INSIDE...



AND THIS YEAR'S CHALLENGE IS UNDERWAY...



**INSIDE:** Go-Ahead London's roster of Energy Champions



# This year's challenge is on!

- THE quest to find the Go-Green 500 Challenge champion for 2011 has begun with the final at Europe's most advanced vehicle test site.
- Here we look forward to the event and talk to the previous winner of that brand new Fiat 500 car...



The moment when Paul Cooper was presented with the keys to his Fiat 500 by managing director John Trayner.

## Paul is reaping the benefits

**FIAT 500** competition winner Paul Cooper is still benefiting from his first place finish 18 months after the competition's conclusion.

Paul's prize for finishing in pole position at the event in October 2009, was a brand new Fiat 500 car.

Working in London, Paul has really seen the benefits from driving a greener car, such as the lack of congestion charges and lower road tax costs.

"If you live in London it is incredibly handy. For a little

car it is nippy and you can park it anywhere," said Paul.

The quality of the car itself also came as a surprise to Paul, with the money saving attributes not compromising quality.

"My wife doesn't drive but she has benefited from being able to travel in a nice car with plenty of room and air conditioning!

"I was very surprised by the car and would certainly recommend it."



**A SUPER** cool Fiat 500 TwinAir awaits the lucky winner of this year's competition to find Go-Ahead London's greenest bus driver.

This two cylinder, turbo-charged little number is loaded with features that help minimize its carbon footprint, yet it can zip from 0 to 62 miles per hour in just 11 seconds.

### EXEMPT

The Fiat 500 TwinAir is not only exempt from road tax, but you won't pay the standard congestion charge when you take a trip into London (this requires registration with Transport for London and an annual fee of £10). You can also expect to do 69 miles to the gallon, so the Fiat 500 TwinAir adds up to a smart choice.

### LOWEST

If you've got a heart for the planet, then you'll be interested to know that the Fiat 500 TwinAir is the lowest CO2 emission petrol engine in the world, thanks to special technology that enables more precise combustion control.

By the autumn, one Go-Ahead London driver will be the owner of a new Fiat 500 TwinAir following the annual competition to find the bus driver who drives in the most environmentally friendly way. The challenge began on March 1 and is based on Telematics scoring and local driver of the month competitions. These will determine the shortlist for the final, which will be held in Millbrook in September.

## Your local Energy Champions

**NEW MEMBERS** have been added to Go-Ahead London's roster of Energy Champions committed to lowering energy consumption throughout the company.

Paul Coyle has taken over the reigns at Peckham, Nigel Wood will now cover Blue Triangle and Docklands garages and Kastriot Gashi has become the champion for Camberwell.

Kastriot believes that everyone can do something, however small, to help Go-Ahead become a greener company.

"With a little contribution from everybody we can make a big difference," he said.

"From drivers to cleaning staff, everyone can contribute a bit."

Also joining the energy-saving group is Merton's new champion, Hannah Self, Waterloo's Phil Seago and Mark Cambridge at Sutton.

Despite the many changes made throughout the company in order to save energy, there is still much to be done in the coming year.

Mark Cambridge has implemented a number of changes to the Sutton garage including fitting activation switches to heating equipment and monitoring engine usage.

Mark says improvements will continue but it is also important that the energy-saving message continues to be spread.

"As a garage team we are very careful about our energy consumption.

"Even more indirect methods such as the newsletter still help the company to save more energy in the long run."

Here's the full up-to-date list of champions. If you have an idea how energy can be saved at your garage then please speak to your energy champion.

### CAMBERWELL

Kastriot Gashi Asst operating manager

### NEW CROSS

George Morton Operating manager

### PECKHAM

Paul Coyle Operating manager

### BLUE TRIANGLE/DOCKLANDS

Nigel Wood General manager

### STOCKWELL/MANDELA WAY

Colin Opher General manager

### DEPUTY CHAMPION

Derek Barker Operating manager

### BEXLEYHEATH

Graham Johnson Operating manager

### MERTON

Hannah Self Operating manager

### SUTTON

Mark Cambridge Operating manager

### CAMBERWELL RECRUITMENT

Keith Wood Resources manager

### PUTNEY

Alan McCormack Operating manager

### WATERLOO

Phil Seago Base manager

## Going solar

**SOLAR PANELS** may soon be installed at Go-Ahead London garages as part of a scheme to save electricity.

While the plans have not yet been finalised it is possible that some garages could adopt the system relatively soon.

A proposal has only been received for Merton garage so far, but proposals for other garages are expected very soon.

Chris Grinstead, group environment and energy manager, said: "Once proposals have been received they will have to be approved by local authority planning departments before we can proceed.

"Installation times will vary depending on the size of the garage roofspace and how many panels there are."

The scheme will be based on leasing the roof space to a company who

will install the panels and be responsible for their maintenance. They will pay us a rental for the use of the roof space and will sell us all of the electricity generated at approximately half of what it would cost us to buy it through a normal contract. As well as providing financial savings, the solar panels would also considerably improve our environmental performance as the electricity generated will be virtually carbon neutral.

The only downside the scheme may face is that the proposals are based on renting the roof space over a 25-year term which is necessary for the supplier of the panels to get an adequate return on their investment but which may be difficult for the company to agree to.



## And 2 becomes 3

**A THIRD** electric van will be added to the Go-Ahead London fleet, just two years after it became the first company in London to operate them.

The vans, made by Smith Electric Vehicles, are used for roadside assistance and for distributing stores items around the garages.

Powered by two large batteries, the vans produce zero emissions in use.

They have a most efficient average speed of 28 mph and a top speed of around 50 mph.



# Be smart, be ahead of the game



**HERE'S A** chance to win a 'smart meter', a sophisticated device that will allow you to see how much energy your appliances are using at home.

Smart meters help consumers cut their energy bills by paying attention to usage. They have a visual display that allows the user to see exactly how much energy is being consumed.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change says that case studies have shown that people could reduce their bills by some £100 a year as the meters

can encourage changes in behaviour.

Most people by now are aware that major savings can be made by turning down the central heating a degree or two. However, simply leaving appliances on standby can add £33 a year to bills – noting this usage on the smart meter is often enough to make the user switch off the appliance.

There are plans for every household in the UK to own a smart meter by 2020 but you can be years ahead of the game by entering our competition.

**Go Green has 20 smart meters to give away. To be in with a chance of winning one of them, just answer the following question correctly.**

**How much fuel does Go-Ahead London use per year?**

**A) 100,000 gallons (455,000 litres) B) 1.5 million gallons (6.82 million litres) or C) 5.5 million gallons (25 million litres)**

*Simply email your response to [competition@ruxley.co.uk](mailto:competition@ruxley.co.uk) by May 15.*

*The first 20 correct entries drawn out of the editor's 'hat' will win a smart meter.*

## The best of both

**BY THE** end of the year, there will be 50 hybrid buses in service on Go-Ahead London routes.

The buses, powered by a combination of an electric motor and Euro 4 and 5 diesel engines, are fitted with lithium ion batteries. These are smaller and lighter than the conventional acid variety – and store energy generated from the vehicle braking system for later use under acceleration.

This is similar to the Kinetic Energy Recovery System (KERS) developed in Formula One; thus making use of energy that would otherwise be wasted.

The buses are 20 per cent

more energy efficient than conventional diesel buses.

The drivers particularly like them and find them easy to drive. Chief engineer Richard Harrington said: "Hybrid buses have the potential to deliver significant savings in emissions and fuel consumption, which will help reduce our carbon footprint even further."

■ London Central hit the headlines in the capital in February 2006 by becoming the first London operator to run hybrid buses. Since then, hybrid buses have become an increasingly common feature in the capital.

## Plug and go

**GO-AHEAD** London is considering installing points at garages where colleagues can charge their electric cars while they work.

Cars can be left on site to charge during a shift and then collected when it is time to travel home.

Councils around London have made the cutting of air pollution from road vehicles a priority.

The government has approved the installation of 1,300 charging points around London in a bid to make it the electric vehicle capital of Europe.



## Top ten energy saving tips

**SAVING ENERGY** is simple. Here are a few ideas you may wish to consider:

- 1 Buy an energy usage monitor (or enter our competition and win one) so you can tell how much energy you are using.
- 2 Only use your washing machine when you have a full load.
- 3 When you have a cup of tea, only boil the amount of water you will actually use.
- 4 Use your microwave instead of your oven whenever possible.
- 5 Have a shower instead of a bath.
- 6 Ensure your home is properly insulated.
- 7 Start using rechargeable batteries instead of disposables.
- 8 Regularly defrost your fridge and freezer.
- 9 Lower the setting on your thermostat by just 1.5C.
- 10 Cover pots and pans while cooking so food boils much quicker.

