

ONE YEAR ON: THE IMPACTS OF THE LONDON CONGESTION CHARGING SCHEME ON VEHICLE EMISSIONS

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A major aim of the London Congestion Charging Scheme (CCS) is to reduce congestion by charging vehicles £5.00 to enter a designated area, between 7.00 am and 6.30 pm during the working week. The traffic impacts of this scheme have exceeded expectations and large changes to central London's vehicle fleet have occurred. Examples of this are 30 % reduction in cars, 25 % increase in buses and 10 % increase in taxis. The CCS is unique in the world in that it has brought about changes of this magnitude in a major world city. A comprehensive assessment has been performed using a wide range of traffic information for both pre-CCS and post-CCS conditions. The analysis quantifies the important reduction in emissions brought about by increased vehicle speeds and the direct effects of reduced vehicle flows. The benefits have been quantified in terms emissions and air pollution concentrations.

