



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*

