

7th May 2009

Budget 09 – Extended Commitment for LPG to 2014

In the Budget, Chancellor Alistair Darling announced a commitment in LPG fuel duty to March 2014, ensuring that LPG continues to be a dramatically cheaper alternative to petrol for the next 5 years and signalling increased support for the industry.

Mike Chapman, Autogas Manager of UKLPG, commented: "This is really good news for motorists thinking of converting to LPG, by extending the period customers are assured of savings for at least the next 5 years, making converting a worthwhile investment, even in these difficult economic times"

For the next 5 years the fuel duty differential with petrol will reduce by a maximum of 1p per litre per year which means that the price of LPG at the pumps is expected to remain around half that of petrol.

Almost any petrol-engine car can be converted to run on LPG autogas which, as well as being much cheaper than petrol, produces fewer greenhouse gases and toxic emissions, and reduces engine wear.

The cost of conversion for an average car from around £1600*, so the payback period can be as short as 12 months, depending on annual mileage and the size of the vehicle. LPG autogas is now widely available throughout the country – there are some 1400 outlets, including many petrol stations, and the network continues to grow as the price of petrol and diesel soars.

Even if a car is running low on LPG autogas and there is not an outlet in the immediate vicinity, it's not a problem – you simply fill up with a few litres of petrol because a converted car is able to run equally well on both fuels, and you can change from one fuel to the other without even slowing down.

The LPGA Approved Installer Scheme operated by UKLPG, established in consultation with the Department for Transport, currently incorporates nearly 200 conversion companies around the country. Choosing an Approved Installer ensures that the conversion to autogas is carried out in full compliance with all safety, regulatory and warranty requirements.

** Please see notes on the next page*

For further information contact:

Lisa Thomson, Communications Manager, UKLPG
Email lisa.thomson@uklpg.org
Telephone: 02476 711702 Mobile: 07912 194930
Website: www.drivelpg.co.uk
Website: www.uklpg.org

More...

Notes to journalists

- 1** UKLPG is the trade association for the LPG industry in the UK, and represents up to 99% of the total LPG sales in the UK, around 80% of autogas equipment sales and the participants in the LPG Approved installer Scheme account for approximately 70% of vehicle conversions.
- 2** There are approximately 1400 refuelling stations currently in the UK.
- 3** If you would like to test drive an LPG autogas-fuelled car for yourself then please let us know and we will be delighted to arrange a drive at a time and location that is convenient for you. We will also be pleased to arrange a one-to-one interview with our Chief Executive Rob Shuttleworth or our Autogas Manager Mike Chapman if you wish.
- 4** Almost all petrol-engine cars can be converted to run on autogas. Systems are also currently being developed for diesel-engine vehicles, but these systems have not been fully proven.
- 5** LPG autogas currently retails at around 52.4 per litre in the UK compared to about 96.1p for a litre of petrol. (*Source: www.petrolprices.com 06/05/09.*)
- 6** The cost of a conversion is stated at an average cost for an average car (1.8 engine) across the systems available from an LPGA Approved Installer. This cost will vary dependant on the size of engine and system fitted. Costs range from as little as £800 up to £2,500.