**Eco Driving.**

**Main vehicle maintenance expenses.**

* Fuel
* Brakes, pads and discs
* Tyres
* Clutch

**Methods to reduce running costs.**

1. **Engine tick over or idle speed.**

Revs per minute or RPM is the speed the engine ticks over. The Vauxhall Corsa engine ticks over at 950 rpm +- 50 depending on engine temperature.

At idle speed or tick over the engine functions normally. It will even tick over and drive itself by means of the computer management system that will drive the car – even in a low gear. Below this speed the engine enters the pre-stall or “judder threshold” and the engine could then stall unless the clutch is depressed or more speed is gained**.**

1. **Brakes – wear and tear.**

The harder and the more frequently you press the footbrake, the more you wear out the brake pads and discs, which are expensive. Therefore, to avoid costly future bills, during normal braking situations - brake early, brake light. (£1.00 coin thickness). Except in an emergency or when clearly, it’s necessary to brake harder!

Use brakes sparingly just as you would on your bike to save brake wear and save energy by having to needlessly speed up again (more fuel) when you could have just eased off the gas sooner and hardly braked at all**.**

1. **Tyres.**

Tyre wear is related to heavy braking as more kinetic energy is exerted down on to the road surface through the tyre. Especially the front ones! More tyre wear also happens by turning the steering wheel unnecessarily when slow speed manoeuvring or at a standstill. (Dry steering).

When parking for instance, if one quarter or half a steering wheel turn and a bigger turning circle is possible and safe, then do it. It all adds up over the months and years, will save you money and is less of a work-out for you!

Tyres wear more in fast driving, braking and cornering as the tyre walls flex and bend as the weight of the car is pushed over them. Good quality tyres are essential and save money in the long term, they will keep you safer on the road.

1. **Clutch.**

Clutch wear happens through inefficient use or over use of the clutch pedal. Especially when ‘coasting’; holding the clutch in too long or depressing it too soon. Resting your foot on the pedal when driving along (not hanging up properly - ‘phoning Australia’) is coasting. You will face the bill sooner or later!

Poor clutch control, e.g., jerky gear changes, using the clutch instead of using engine idle speed or ‘cut off speed’ in low gears and not using the *strong engine hint* to ‘push the clutch in now’ - “Judder Threshold”.

This “Eco” topic will save you money in your own car, protect the environment and also make you a better, more controlled and skilful driver. Good eco driving habits that you develop now will last you well even when you switch to electric.

It’s all about saving energy, easing off early and protecting the environment, as well as your pocket.

Drive safely and drive economically.

Best wishes,

David Barter.