

PRESS RELEASE FROM The Blue Lamp Trust



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Publish Date: 16 August 2018
Reference Number: 04/18

Blue Lamp Trust offers free eco-driving course to Portsmouth businesses

A community charity is offering free eco-driving lessons to help Portsmouth businesses save money and cut incidents while improving local air quality.

The Blue Lamp Trust has teamed up with Portsmouth City Council to offer 'Eco Safe' driver training courses free to businesses in the PO1 to PO6 postcode areas.

The courses, which are delivered by specialist trainers, will start in September and interested businesses will need to apply for a limited number of places.

Eco Safe driving contributes to reduced fuel consumption by an average of 20%, cuts greenhouse gas emission and wear and tear on vehicles. More ecological driving also reduces accident rates and driving risk without compromising busy schedules.

Jim Bettley, General Manager of the Blue Lamp Trust, said: "The benefits of Eco driving are huge, with a saving in fuel usage of around 10-15% achievable. For the average UK driver, this would equate to a saving of around £300 to £400 per annum as well as lower maintenance costs and improved safety."

Cllr Lynne Stagg, Portsmouth's Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation, said: "We are delighted to be working with the Blue Lamp Trust on this scheme. The funding the council received from the government's Clean Air Fund will allow us to train over 100 local drivers over a six month period. We recognise people need to drive, and are in support of any scheme which helps people drive smarter and in a more environmentally-friendly way."

The Blue Lamp Trust, based in Eastleigh, promotes community safety for vulnerable and elderly people in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. It funds its work by providing driving assessments for taxi licence applicants and fleet driver training.

The Trust piloted its Eco Safe course in 2014 with Portsmouth City Council and achieved an impressive 20% average fuel saving for 600 drivers.

The hour-long practical driving course is suitable for drivers of all ages and experience and is conducted in one of the Trust's training vehicles by a DVSA-approved 'Fleet' registered driving instructor.





Candidates drive a set circuit with the instructor, followed by a debrief and some theory on eco safe driving. The circuit is then repeated, with coaching. After each circuit the instructor records MPG, distance, time taken and average speed.

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The candidate then receives data feedback and a session summary along with a course certificate as evidence of the training received.

For an application form or more information about Eco Drive and other courses run by the Blue Lamp Trust, email info@bluelamptrust.org.uk or call 0300 777 0157.

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Notes to Editor

The Blue Lamp Trust promotes community safety in Hampshire through The Bobby Scheme, which provides a free service supporting vulnerable and elderly people in the county, particularly victims of burglary and domestic violence, promoting fire and crime prevention initiatives.

Images:

Eco Safe logo

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Social media:

Follow us on Twitter [@BlueLampTrust](https://twitter.com/BlueLampTrust) and on Facebook at: The Blue Lamp Trust - Bobby Scheme

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NOTES TO EDITORS

