

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Culture and society

81 | Regional information | Eco-friendly driving

Harry gets gas for Anna, and he's in luck: her car is a low-mileage model. However, there are some surprises in Germany, where environmental protection is a priority. There is a group of people who want to be role models but drive cars that consume an unusually large amount of gasoline: We're talking about politicians and their official vehicles.

According to Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH), a high horsepower output and a strong engine are grounds for immediate, unambiguous criticism. DUH closely examined German politicians' official vehicles in 2011; however, not all of them were prepared to submit information. The examination revealed that the vehicles frequently exceeded the EU emissions standard. Deutsche Umwelthilfe has an issue with politicians, of all people, who do not live up to this target. The group encourages politicians to drive – or be driven in – more environmentally friendly vehicles since it's taxpayers in Germany who ultimately fund this fuel-burning extravagance.

The poor performance has had an impact: DUH's seventh business car check in 2014 found a growing trend toward lower CO2 company automobiles. The EU emissions limit for 2015 is 130 g CO2/km. This requirement was established to protect citizens and ensure less toxic exhaust is emitted into the atmosphere across the EU. In the upcoming years, the pollution restrictions will be progressively tightened.