The Global Fuel Economy Initiative (GFEI) exists to assist governments and transport stakeholders to improve vehicle fuel economy. Since its launch in 2009, GFEI has worked to raise awareness of the benefits of fuel economy, share research and analysis, and offer in-country policy support using the skills and expertise of the GFEI partners (The International Energy Agency (IEA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Transport Forum of the OECD (ITF), International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), Institute for Transportation Studies at UC Davis, and the FIA Foundation). GFEI receives funding by GEF and the European Commission to support improved fuel economy in developing countries.

GFEI has shown that simply by using existing, cost-effective, incremental technologies huge gains can be made. These gains could help every country to address the pressing issues of climate change, energy security and sustainable mobility. GFEI has set a target of improving the average fuel economy (in litre/100km terms) for the global light duty vehicle fleet by at least 50% by 2050 (what we call ‘50by50’), and improving new vehicle fuel economy by 50% by 2030. These fuel efficiency gains could be worth $2 trillion by 2050, money which could be used to support the transition to electric vehicles.

GFEI engages extensively with a range of international policy processes to ensure the financial and climate benefits of fuel economy are understood. With global vehicle numbers predicted to at least double over the coming decades, particularly in developing countries, improving fuel economy is a vital way of mitigating the climate impacts. We have worked closely with the G20, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UNFCCC international climate negotiations. We have also presented analysis at international conferences, such as the OECD’s annual International Transport Forum.

GFEI works closely with governments to support new fuel economy policies, including leading training, undertaking baseline analysis of vehicle fleets and developing policy options. GFEI, through our regional partner Centro Mario Molina, has supported the government in Chile over many years to implement a new fuel economy labelling scheme and taxation which incentivises more fuel efficient and clean vehicles.
GFEI Timeline

This timeline picks out a number of key events since GFEI was established in 2009, including major reports, political commitments, and new policies and standards to improve fuel economy.

- **2009**
  - GFEI is launched at Geneva Motorshow
  - President Obama’s global climate initiative at the Major Economies Forum backs GFEI
  - Global Environment Facility supports GFEI

- **2010**
  - GFEI presents at Low Carbon Vehicle Conference, London
  - GFEI at COP16 in Cancun

- **2011**
  - GFEI publishes first international comparison of light-duty vehicle fuel economy – presented at Challenge Bibendum in Berlin
  - GFEI launches report on car scrappage schemes in Europe
  - GFEI presents policy ideas to Chilean Minister of Environment

- **2012**
  - GFEI launches in Africa
  - GFEI part of commitments sustainable transport at Rio +20
  - ICCT joins partnership
  - GFEI launches new work programme for 2012-2015
2013

- UC Davis joins GFEI
- GFEI presents at UN open working group on new Sustainable Development Goals for energy
- GFEI identified as ‘high impact opportunity for Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL)

2014

- Updated international comparison of fuel economy published
- GFEI included in draft Sustainable Development Goals
- Chile adopts fuel economy label
- GFEI ‘Accelerator’ meeting in Paris on fuel efficiency
- GFEI included in G20 Action Plan on Energy Efficiency
- GFEI presents at UN open working group on new Sustainable Development Goals for energy
- GFEI State of the World report launched
- GEF awards support for fuel economy policies in 6 more countries
- Government of Kenya announces plans for new fuel economy scheme
- UN agrees energy efficiency and other SDGs in New York - September

2015

- GFEI publishes latest update on fuel economy worldwide (2008-2013)
- Thailand introduces new fuel economy label
- GFEI launches 100 countries campaign at Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Forum in New York
- GFEI Global Training, Paris
- Government of Kenya announces plans for new fuel economy scheme
- UN agrees energy efficiency and other SDGs in New York - September
Since GFEI launched in 2009, the number of countries taking action to improve fuel economy has grown. Solid foundations are in place to achieve GFEI’s ‘50by50’ target, but achieving it will require continued and renewed ambition. GFEI’s most recent analysis shows that between 2005 and 2013, average global fuel economy improved by 2%. However, this is below the 2.7% improvement that would have been required to halve new vehicle fuel economy by 2030, meaning a 3.1% annual improvement is now needed.

We are looking to build momentum by encouraging 100 countries to commit to contributing to improving fuel economy (‘100 for 50 by 50’) including those which are likely to experience significant growth in vehicle numbers over the next decades. GFEI will continue to offer expert in-country support, analysis and action to raise the profile internationally of these issues, and invite new countries and stakeholders to work with us.

Momentum is building