SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT FACTSHEET – CAR RENTAL



This factsheet provides practical guidance for humanitarian procurement and programme teams to source car rental services more sustainably. It highlights key considerations throughout the procurement process:



Before buying | Choosing the right car rental | During use | End of life | Alternatives

1. Before buying

Sustainable procurement starts with a clear assessment of needs. The following questions can guide procurement policies and decisions.

Do we need to rent a car? If yes, what type?	Are electric or hybrid cars the best solution?	Can we rent from a local & sustainable supplier?
• Depending on the route and location, are alternative modes of transport available (cycling, public transport, carpooling)? • What is the smallest, lightest, and least powerful vehicle suitable for the journey? Opt for a small city car for driving in town, on tarmac roads, or on good tracks.	• Hybrid and electric cars generally emit fewer greenhouse gases than petrol/diesel cars, but the benefit depends on how batteries are recycled or disposed of at end of life and, for electric cars, on how the electricity is generated. • Hybrid cars are heavier than equivalent petrol cars, which reduces part of their fuel savings; they are best suited to urban driving. For electric cars, choose a lightweight city car for urban trips.	• Does a local supplier maintain its fleet well (fuel efficiency, emissions control) and offer low-carbon options?

2. Choosing the right car rental

These tables help integrate sustainability into your car rental procurement. **Table 1** includes ready-to-use technical specifications for BOQs, and **Table 2** provides supplier evaluation criteria for procurement assessment. The "Impact" column reflects each criterion's importance to the environmental footprint (climate, water, waste).

Table 1. Criteria for sustainable car rental procurement

Criteria	Impact	Sustainability guidance
Emissions limitation	High	**Lowest gCO2 eq./km** available for the required vehicle category.
Pollution limitation	Medium	Most recent **EURO category available** (vehicle emissions standard set by the EU, indicating exhaust pollutant limits, currently EURO 4 minimum, to adapt depending on the area of intervention – check vehicle official documents).
Engine oil filter	Medium	For Land Cruiser-type vehicles, equipped with an **oil filtration system** (e.g. Nitifilter®) to reduce used engine oil and waste production.
Tyres	Medium	**High fuel-efficiency tyres** (EU efficiency rating A or B). 
Inclusivity		Where needed, vehicles adapted for accessibility (wheelchair access, ramps/lifts, swivel seats, hand controls), with drivers trained to operate such equipment.

Table 2. Supplier criteria

Criteria	Impact	Sustainability guidance
Monitoring Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Medium	The supplier shall monitor GHG emissions using dedicated tools, set GHG reduction targets, and publish annual reports.
Garage waste management	Medium	The supplier shall have documented procedures and facilities for **safely segregating, storing, and legally disposing of hazardous waste** (tyres, oils, batteries, e-parts).
Health and safety of drivers		The supplier shall confirm that all drivers have undergone a **mandatory medical check-up** within the past year, supported by medical records and occupational health policies.

3. During use

Use eco-driving tips to reduce fuel consumption →

Before you set off

- Avoid idling and long warm-up/cool-down periods — this can save up to 6.6% in fuel consumption.
- Anticipate traffic conditions so you can drive more smoothly overall.

Accelerating

- Start slowly, avoiding rapid acceleration.
- Accelerate smoothly — aggressive acceleration can raise fuel consumption by up to 37%.
- Gear up early, use the highest gear possible, and keep engine speed at or below 2,500 rpm.

Cruising

- Maintain a constant speed and avoid pumping the accelerator.
- Use cruise control on the highway.

Slowing down

- Decelerate smoothly and use engine braking where possible.
- Avoid aggressive braking: it's safer, uses less fuel, and reduces brake wear.

Climate control

- Below 65 km/h (40 mph): open the windows instead of using air conditioning.
- Above 65 km/h (40 mph): close the windows and use air conditioning instead — open windows create drag that increases fuel consumption at higher speeds.

4. End of life

- Where relevant, confirm with the supplier **how end-of-life vehicles in their fleet are managed** (recycling of parts, tyres, batteries, fluids).
- Favour suppliers who **renew their fleet responsibly and maintain vehicles** to extend their operational lifespan.

5. Alternatives: cost and environmental analysis

Table 3. All contexts: environmental benefits of recommended alternatives

Availability of these alternatives must be verified with local suppliers.

Alternatives	Key benefits
Electric cars	Emits no tailpipe greenhouse gases; overall impact depends on the electricity source and proper battery recycling at end of life.
Hybrid car	Emits fewer greenhouse gases than petrol/diesel cars, though the benefit is reduced by higher vehicle weight and energy use — best suited to urban/lightweight use cases.

Table 4. Lebanon: cost and environmental analysis of available alternatives

A Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) analysis shows that **a hybrid car rental at AVIS Lebanon is 1.4% more expensive than a standard rental of the same vehicle size**, once fuel savings are factored in, assuming average daily usage of 47 km. Usage above 67 km/day results in net cost savings.

Conventional technical specification	Sustainable technical specification
Gasoline car rental	Hybrid car rental

6. References and resources

This factsheet is based on a project's market assessment in Lebanon, drawing on supplier questionnaire responses, technical observations from site visits, and available guidance on sustainable products and services relevant to the Lebanese context in 2026. For more information, as well as the methodology used for price comparison, total cost of ownership, and the simplified LCA, please refer to the following document: *Appendix 1 - Price comparison & environmental analysis methodologies.*

https://climateactionaccelerator.org/solutions/eco-driving/#sources