Meghan Lodwick:

A new tyre pressure station has been installed in car park 1 of La Trobe University’s Melbourne Campus, allowing staff and students to ensure their tyres are inflated correctly.

Edhem Custovic:

Low tyre pressure in vehicles, besides the safety factor, leads to the engine working harder. When the engine works harder the vehicle wastes more fuel, and at the same time would tend to emit more carbon emissions.

Meghan:

The pump also communicates information via blue-tooth technology, tracking information on the number of tyres inflated and how much CO2 emissions are reduced over time.

Edhem Custovic:

What that allows us to do is actually monitor the usage of the pump, and also we use a sophisticated algorithm which I wrote about six months ago, in order to calculate roughly how much carbon emissions we’re saving per kilometer, based on the tyres being inflated to the correct tyre pressure.

Meghan:

The project is an initiative of La Trobe University’s Department of Electronic Engineering and the Office for Sustainability.

Professor Carol Adams:

We want our staff and students to apply sustainability thinking to the way they learn, the way they research, and the way they live, and we’re doing this by involving them in initiatives around the campus, and our own university initiatives to reduce negative environmental impacts.

Meghan Lodwick:

La Trobe University prides itself on sustainability, and it hopes that projects like this will help lower its carbon footprint.

Edhem Custovic:

There are an estimated 6500 vehicles at La Trobe University. If we can target at least a certain percentage of these vehicles, we’re looking at a savings of hundreds of tonnes of carbon emissions per year.