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Car sales go green

NEW car buyers in Adelaide will have the opportunity to offset the carbon emissions of their new vehicles.

But the green initiative will come at a cost, with the customer asked to pay up front to supply the trees that will soak up the greenhouse gases.

Conservation group the Canopy Project, together with the Adelaide-based Toyota CMI, yesterday launched Australia's first offset scheme for cars.

Using a formula developed by the Australian Greenhouse Office, CMI car buyers will be able to make a donation at the time they buy their new vehicle to cover the cost of planting enough trees to soak up the carbon emissions the car will put out over the next 40,000km.

This can then be claimed as a tax deduction.

The contribution for a small car has been set at \$134, enough to cover the cost of trees to soak up 6.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide.