

Amsterdam pays residents to scrap polluting old cars

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A view of the National War Monument on the Dam in Amsterdam in 2006. The Dutch capital Amsterdam announced Wednesday a cash bonus of up to 1,000 euros (1,400 dollars) for residents who scrap their old cars to buy newer, environmentally friendly ones.

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From October 1, "Amsterdammers who scrap their old cars and buy a cleaner alternative ... can get a bonus of between 250 euros and 1,000 euros," the city said in a statement.

Six million euros had been budgeted for the project on top of a scrapping bonus issued by the national government recently of up to 1,750 per car in a bid to boost the automotive industry amid the global economic crunch.

"In this manner, we help counter the [recession](#) and contribute to the environmental sustainability of the city," said [Amsterdam](#) councillor Hans Gerson.

Amsterdammers wishing to get rid of their old gas guzzlers without replacing them qualified for a bonus of between 500 euros and 1,000 euros -- but this applied only to the worst polluters.

About 14,000 cars were expected to be scrapped as a result of the project, which runs until end-2010, said the council statement.

Other European countries, including Austria, France, Germany and Italy, have introduced similar incentives to boost their [car](#) industries.

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