



**Two Billion Cars:  
Driving Toward  
Sustainability**, by  
Daniel Sperling and  
Deborah Gordon  
(OUP, £9.99)

In the past decade, we have used a quarter of all the oil consumed by humans in our history. Last year in China, vehicle sales surpassed those in the US for the first time. Soon there will be 2 billion cars on the world's roads. Our cities are choking, with roads congested and air polluted. Indeed, as Sperling and Gordon say, thanks to the latest engine technology, "the exhaust from new cars can be cleaner than the surrounding air" in polluted cities. The authors argue that cars are "one of the greatest man-made threats to human society". Written by two influential American transport experts, this book offers a detailed analysis of the problem and a blueprint for change: car-makers, politicians and oil corporations need to work together to reinvent vehicles and fuels, as well as diversifying the current car-centric transport system. Individuals should have carbon budgets to encourage low-carbon lifestyles. Our "planet will surely be doomed unless we heed this call to action", Arnold Schwarzenegger says in the foreword - in his capacity as governor of California, not the Terminator. He might be right. **PDS**