Climate Change & You

WHAT YOU CAN DO *on the road*

The burning of fuels releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and contributes to climate change. By taking actions to reduce the amount of fuel you use, you can reduce your greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the nation's dependence on oil, and save money.

Resources

Federal Fuel Economy Guide:
www.fueleconomy.gov/

Federal Bicycle and Pedestrian Program: **www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/**

Public Transportation Web site:
www.publictransportation.org/

EPA's Green Vehicle Guide:
www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/

DOE's Alternative Fueling Station Locator:
www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/infrastructure/locator.html

EPA's Climate Change: What You Can Do on the Road Web site:
www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/road.html

1. Buy smart

Before buying a new or used vehicle (or even renting), check out EPA's Green Vehicle Guide and the jointly run EPA/DOE Fuel Economy Guide. These resources provide information about the emissions and fuel economy performance of different vehicles. The Green Vehicle Guide provides detailed information on emissions (including air pollution and greenhouse gas scores for each model), and the Fuel Economy Guide focuses on fuel efficiency (including side-by-side fuel economy comparisons and a customized fuel cost calculator).

2. Drive smart

To improve fuel economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, go easy on the brakes and gas pedal, avoid hard accelerations, reduce time spent idling, and unload unnecessary items in your trunk to reduce weight. If you have a removable roof rack and you are not using it, take it off to improve your fuel economy by as much as 5 percent. Use overdrive and cruise control on your car if you have those features.

3. Tune your ride

A well-maintained car is more fuel-efficient, produces lower greenhouse gas emissions, is more reliable, and is safer! Keep your car well-tuned, follow the manufacturer's maintenance schedule, and use the recommended grade of motor oil. Also check and replace your vehicle's air filter regularly.

4. Check your tires

Check your tire pressure regularly. Under-inflation increases tire wear, reduces your fuel economy by up to 3 percent, and leads to increased emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants. If you don't know the correct tire pressure for your vehicle, you can find it listed on the door to the glove compartment or on the driver's side door pillar.

5. Give your car a break

Use public transportation, carpool, or walk or bike whenever possible to avoid using your car. Leaving your car at home just two days a week will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 1,600 pounds per year. Whenever possible, combine activities and errands into one trip. For daily commuting, consider options such as telecommuting (working from home via phone or over the Internet) that can reduce the stress of commuting, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and save you money.

6. Use renewable fuels

Both E85 and biodiesel are renewable fuels that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from your vehicle. E85 is a fuel blend containing 85 percent renewable ethanol, and can be used in certain vehicles called flex fuel vehicles (FFVs). Biodiesel is a renewable fuel made from agricultural resources such as vegetable oils. DOE's Alternative Fueling Station Locator can help you locate both E85 and biodiesel fuel stations in your area.

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