



What Can You Do To Save Gas & Reduce Air Pollution?

1. Sign up to receive free email ozone alerts at www.cleanairforce.org.
2. Drive less – Ride the bus/carpool/walk/bike/combine errands – On road vehicles account for as much as 1/3 of the air pollution in Central Texas. Burning 1 gallon of gas in your automobile creates 20 pounds of carbon dioxide and the average motorist uses about 700 gallons of gas per year, emitting 14,000 lbs of CO₂ per year. <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/climate.shtml>,
<http://www2.cera.com/gasoline/summary/>

Ride the bus - A bus with as few as seven passengers is more fuel efficient than the average auto used for commuting. One person using mass transit for a year - instead of driving to work - keeps 9.1 pounds of hydrocarbons, 62.5 pounds of carbon monoxide, and 4.9 pounds of nitrogen oxides from polluting our air and can save 200 gallons of gasoline per year.

<http://www.racinecounty.com/thebus/whyride.htm>

3. Avoid idling – Idling for even one minute wastes fuel and creates more pollution than turning off the engine and restarting it. If you must drive, avoid traffic congestion (and thus, idling) by driving during non-peak times. Ten minutes of daily idling wastes almost 20 gallons of gasoline annually for every driver. As a general rule, if you are going to stop for one minute or more - except in traffic - turn off the engine. You'll save money, and you won't produce harmful carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas. Idling your vehicle with the air conditioner on can increase emissions by 13%. http://www.makealeap.org/idling_myth,
<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/01-17-2005/0002857245&EDATE=>
4. Drive the speed limit – Driving fast increases emissions. In highway travel, exceeding the speed limit by only 5 mph results in an average fuel economy loss of 6%. <http://www.fightglobalwarming.com/page.cfm?tagID=268>

5. Avoid stopping and starting, basically keep the wheels rolling. On average you can easily reduce your fuel consumption and emissions by around 10%.
<http://www.cnn.com>
6. Use cruise control – Using the vehicle cruise control feature when on the highway or on relatively flat terrain to keep the car at a steady speed can help save gas. Edmunds.com found that using cruise control improved gas mileage by 7 to 14%.
<http://www.edmunds.com/advice/fueleconomy/articles/106842/article.html#test3>
7. Lighten the car – Extra weight decreases gas mileage. Remove unnecessary items from the vehicle such as bicycle or roof top racks, non-emergency items from the trunk, golf clubs, garbage, and boxes full of unused items. An extra 100 pounds can reduce your MPG by 2%. <http://www.buy-and-sell-car-secrets.com/save-gas.html>
8. Plan your trip – A direct planned route is cheaper than an impulsive one. And one trip with many stops is cheaper than making several trips. According to the Department of Energy, several short trips all begun with a cold start can use twice as much fuel as a single, longer trip that covers the same distance.
http://www.duke.edu/web/ESC/campus_initiatives/transportation/conservegas.html
9. Use electric lawn equipment - 5% of air pollution is created by gas-powered lawn equipment. Use electric lawn equipment or use gas-powered lawn equipment after 6 pm. Mowing with a gas-powered mower for just one hour can produce as much pollution as driving a car 100 miles.
<http://environment.about.com/od/pollution/a/lawnmowers.htm>
10. Save energy – When we use less energy, power plants burn fewer fossil fuels and release fewer chemicals that form ozone. The energy we use at home accounts for about 1/5 of U.S. global warming pollution. Some ways to save energy include:
 - Use the energy saver cycle on your dishwasher and only run it when full
 - Wash clothes in warm or cold water, not hot
 - Turn down your water heater to 120° Fahrenheit
 - Clean or replace the air filter on your air conditioner
 - Install low-flow shower heads to use less hot water
 - Caulk and weather-strip around doors and windows

- Ask your utility company for a free home energy audit

<http://fightglobalwarming.com/page.cfm?tagID=267>

11. Maintain your vehicle – Cars and trucks in top running order pollute less. One vehicle in bad repair can produce 28 times as much pollution as one vehicle in good condition. A poorly tuned engine wastes 10-20% of the fuel it uses. A clogged air filter can cause a 10% increase in fuel consumption. A poorly tuned engine uses up to 15% more energy when idling than a well-tuned vehicle. Keeping your vehicle in good condition is key to better fuel efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://www.envisioncentraltexas.org/resources/ClimateChange.htm>

12. Properly inflate your tires - Low tire pressure increases road friction and can waste up to 5% of a tank of gas. Proper air pressure results in better gas mileage, which at \$3 per gallon could save you as much as \$432 per year. Less fuel consumption results in less carbon dioxide being emitted into the atmosphere.

http://www.cmu.edu/cmnews/extra/050921_tire.html

13. Buy a “cleaner” vehicle – Drive a hybrid - Lower emitting vehicles such as hybrids are a cleaner option and save you money on gas. Hybrids are known to use a fraction of the gas due to their ability to “share the burden” with their electric motors. Hybrid vehicles allow the electric motor to work independently of the more traditional internal combustion engine while driving at low speeds. This in turn saves gas, and keeps harmful emissions from entering the atmosphere. During an idle stop, a hybrid actually shuts itself off, letting the electric motor take over to eliminate unnecessary idling and emissions.

<http://www.articlesbase.com/environment-articles/hybrid-cars-positive-effect-on-the-environment-119123.html>

14. Telecommute - Workers commute an average of 10,000 miles per year and consume 67 billion gallons of gas. Telecommuting reduces vehicle miles traveled per year by more than 35 billion and saves almost 2 billion gallons of gas. Even telecommuting once a week is still a 20% effort. If American commuters worked from home just one day a week, we could save 5.85 billion gallons of oil and cut over 65 million metric tons of carbon dioxide each year.

http://www.philly.com/philly/jobs/Telecommuting_Good_for_environment_employer.html, <http://www.fightglobalwarming.com/page.cfm?tagID=268>

15. Refuel after 6 pm – Fueling your tank in cooler temperatures means less ozone formation. When temperatures are cooler gas is denser, meaning there is more liquid than fumes. Check your gas cap - leaking gas caps contribute to air pollution and waste fuel due to evaporation. A leaking gas cap equals approximately 200 pounds of evaporative emissions each year. Up to 30 gallons of gasoline can be released annually. <http://www.commutesmarter.org/birmingham/greenliving.html>

16. Stop refueling when the gas pump clicks – Overfilling your tank releases harmful fumes into the air, canceling the benefits of the pump's anti-pollution device. You need extra room in your gas tank to allow the gasoline to expand. If you top off your tank, the extra gas may evaporate into your vehicle's vapor collection system. That system may become fouled and will not work properly causing your vehicle to run poorly and have high gas emissions. The extra gasoline will either be sucked into the vapor recovery tube or overflow. Either way you end up paying for gas that you did not use. <http://www.epa.gov/donttopoff/>