8 GREAT WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR FUEL COSTS

1. Use the Right Grade of Gasoline/Don’t Top Off:
Most cars run fine on regular. Check your vehicle owner’s manual to find out what’s right for your car. Don’t “top off” at the pump and make sure your fuel cap is on tight.

2. Use Carpooling, Public Transport and Non-Motorized Options:
Carpool, use mass transit, bicycle, or walk instead of driving alone. Sharing a ride with a friend effectively doubles your fuel economy for the trip and allows you to use the carpooling lane.

3. Don’t Drive Aggressively & Drive at the Speed Limit:
Avoid aggressive driving and aggressive starts. All vehicles lose fuel economy at speeds above 55 mph. Driving 65 instead of 75 mph reduces fuel cost by 13 percent. Driving 55 mph would reduce fuel costs 25 percent.

4. Reduce Air Conditioner Use/Clean Windows:
Using the air conditioner increases fuel cost by about 1 percent. If it is allowed and it lowers the inside temperature, use it only on the inside of the windows.

5. Eliminate Extra Wind Resistance and Weight:
Carry the load inside your vehicle if you can. Removing unnecessary weight is better still.

6. Minimize Vehicle Idling:
Today’s vehicles are designed to warm up fast. Avoid idling when you can. Idling uses about 0.3 miles per gallon. This includes waiting at drive-thru lanes and waiting for kids at schools.

7. Maintain Vehicle Efficiency:
Regular maintenance as prescribed by the vehicle owner’s manual will help your vehicle achieve its best fuel economy. Some overlooked maintenance items, such as a dirty air filter and under inflated tires, can increase your fuel cost up to 13 percent.

8. Drive or Purchase a Fuel Efficient Vehicle:
Drive your most fuel efficient vehicle whenever possible. When purchasing, consider the most fuel efficient vehicles available. The next best option is to purchase the most fuel efficient vehicle within the class of vehicles you are considering. Research the fuel efficiency of various vehicles before making a purchase. Source: California Energy Commission

INTERESTING FACTS:

- As of January 2008, Broward County uses 55 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fleet vehicles, six propane, one electric, and 51 HEV, for a total of 113 alternative and advanced technology vehicles. For more information, visit www.broward.org/energy.

- Parking in the shade helps both your wallet and our air quality. Heat makes fumes from gasoline vents escape into the air, even when your car is not running. Shade lowers the temperature of gas tanks by four to seven degrees – enough to curb emissions by about two percent. Source: University of California, Davis

- Fill your gas tank in the evening. When the air is cooler, fewer fumes evaporate during pumping, and any that escape won’t cause harmful ground-level ozone.

- Run your errands back-to-back. Starting a warm engine pollutes up to five times less than one that’s been sitting for more than an hour.

- A poorly maintained car can release as much as 100 times the emissions of a well-maintained car. Make sure to get regular oil changes and tune-ups.

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Source: California Energy Commission
**WHAT ARE ALTERNATIVE_fuels?**

T**he most familiar transportation fuels in the United States are gasoline and diesel, but there are other energy sources capable of powering motor vehicles. Alternative fuels are clean fuels that are alternatives to gasoline and diesel. Alternative fuels such as methanol, ethanol, compressed natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, propane, and electricity produce fewer tailpipe emissions than conventional gasoline and diesel fuel.

**WHY SWITCH TO ALTERNATIVE_fuels?**

A**lternative fuels have a number of inherent properties that make them cleaner than conventional gasoline. In general, alternative fuels emit fewer hydrocarbons, so they are producing less air pollution. Emissions from electric, natural gas, or alcohol-powered vehicles can be as much as 90 percent lower in ozone-forming hydrocarbons than emissions from vehicles fueled with conventional gasoline. The use of alternative fuels could also help slow atmospheric buildup of carbon dioxide, a “greenhouse gas” that contributes to the potential for global warming. Theses cleaner fuels also have benefits that reach beyond their air quality advantages. New fuels in the marketplace give consumers additional choices and could decrease our dependence on imported oil. Some alternative fuels are not available for the general public, but public and private fleets are currently using them. There are federal and state government grants available for private and public fleets that provide fueling infrastructure and alternative fuel incremental costs.

**ALTERNATIVE FUEL**

**ADVANTAGES**

**ETANOL**

- Very low emissions of ozone-forming hydrocarbons and toxics
- Made from corn, wood, or paper waste
- Can be domestically produced

**METHANOL**

- Very low emissions of ozone-forming hydrocarbons and toxics
- Can be made from a variety of feedstocks, such as corn, wood, and sugar cane

**NATURAL GAS**

- LNG – Liquefied Natural Gas
- CNG – Compressed Natural Gas
- Can be domestically produced
- Can be used in all cars
- Can be made from a variety of feedstocks, such as corn, wood, and sugar cane
- Can be produced from renewable sources such as soybean, canola, and sunflower oil
- Usable in pure form or mixed with gasoline
- Lower emissions of carbon monoxide, particulate, hydrocarbons, and sulfur emissions
- Better cold start performance
- Uses the chemical energy of hydrogen and oxygen to generate electricity for power
- No polluting emissions and no greenhouse gases (only water & heat)
- Decreases oil imports

**PROPAne**

- Most widely available clean fuel
- Lower emissions of ozone forming hydrocarbons
- The third most commonly used fuel in the U.S.
- Potential for zero vehicle emissions
- Can recharge at night when power demand is low

**REFORMULATED GASOLINE**

- Can be used in all cars
- Emit less hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and toxics than conventional gasoline
- Can be produced from renewable sources such as soybean, canola, and sunflower oil
- Usable in pure form or mixed with gasoline
- Lower emissions of carbon monoxide, particulate, hydrocarbons, and sulfur emissions
- Better cold start performance
- Uses the chemical energy of hydrogen and oxygen to generate electricity for power
- No polluting emissions and no greenhouse gases (only water & heat)
- Decreases oil imports

**BIODIESEL**

- Most widely available clean fuel
- Lower emissions of ozone forming hydrocarbons
- Can be made from vegetable oils and animal fats
- Can be produced from renewable sources such as soybean, canola, and sunflower oil
- Usable in pure form or mixed with gasoline
- Lower emissions of carbon monoxide, particulate, hydrocarbons, and sulfur emissions
- Better cold start performance
- Uses the chemical energy of hydrogen and oxygen to generate electricity for power
- No polluting emissions and no greenhouse gases (only water & heat)
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**FUEL CELLS**

- Hydrogen
- Can be made from a variety of feedstocks, such as corn, wood, and sugar cane
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**HYBRID VEHICLES**

Hybrid vehicles combine a gasoline engine with a battery-powered electric motor. They never need to be plugged in because they supply their own energy to recharge the electric motor’s batteries while operating.

**HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLE COST CALCULATOR TOOL**

To help you decide about the type of HEV you might be interested in, get a personalized buying guide, learn about the incentives of purchasing an HEV, and even get tips to use at the dealership. There’s even a tool to see important and useful consumer information for new and used cars and trucks.

**FUEL ECONOMY**

Visit [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov) for information on gas mileage, greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution ratings, and safety information for new and used cars and trucks.