



Driving Tips to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, tailpipe emissions from vehicles account for almost a third of the air pollution in the United States. While driving a fuel-efficient vehicle can be one way to reduce fuel consumption, and hence emissions, the fact is that **how** you drive can be as important as **what** you drive. The simple tips below will help you save money on fuel, and reduce your environmental impact.

Avoid quick starts and aggressive driving: Flooring the gas pedal produces high pollution rates and wastes gas. One second of high-powered driving can produce nearly the same volume of carbon monoxide emissions as a half hour of normal driving, according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

Stick to the speed limit: Driving 75 mph instead of 65 mph will lower your fuel economy by about 10 percent and will increase tailpipe pollution in many vehicles. A leading consumer magazine found that slowing down from 75 mph to 65 mph resulted in a five mile per gallon performance increase, and slowing down from 75 mph to 55 mph saved 10 miles per gallon.

Avoid hard braking: Especially in traffic, try to anticipate stops rather than braking hard. This will prevent increased pollution, wasted gas and wear on your brakes.

Always use GPS: Some GPS navigation systems, such as *where2*[®] from Avis/Budget, provide real-time traffic alerts which help avoid traffic jams and road construction, as well as eliminating extra driving caused by getting lost. Anything that reduces unnecessary driving time reduces emissions—and saves you money on gas.

Try to avoid rush hour: Stop-and-go driving burns gas and increases emissions of smog-forming pollutants. Plan your schedule so you can avoid driving during peak traffic times.

Always use eToll: eToll, electronic toll collection, avoids cash payment lines at toll booths. Studies have found that paying tolls electronically reduces hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide emissions by 40-63 percent and reduces emissions by 16 percent.

Open your windows before turning on the air conditioner: Removing the hot air before turning on the air conditioning will reduce fuel consumption and nitrogen oxide emissions in some vehicles.

Don't warm up your car: Newer cars have been designed to operate effectively soon after start-up, even in cold weather.

Use cruise control: Cruise control will help you maintain a steady, constant speed, which will reduce the need for acceleration and braking. Edmunds conducted a study which found that using cruise control reduced fuel consumption by seven percent.

Try not to idle for more than one minute: Idling your engine generates more pollution than driving and wastes fuel.

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