

Act on Energy is an independent organisation based in Warwickshire, dedicated to educating the public in the problems associated with climate change and other energy issues. We also provide householders and small businesses in the surrounding region with realistic solutions to reduce energy use.

free advice line 0800 988 2881

get in touch!

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take **control**



it could be costing you!



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Why Take Control of My Transport?

With fuel prices at record levels you could make significant savings by considering ways of reducing your

fuel costs.

STO.

The best way to reduce CO² emissions is to use the car only when necessary and to walk, cycle or use public transport whenever possible. This is not only better for the environment but it is good for your waistline and pocket!

You could also try car sharing which can cut the cost of travelling, save wear and tear on your car and reduce the stress of driving. Websites such as **www.liftshare.com** can put you in touch with people who frequently do the same journey.

Smarter Driving

By changing your driving style slightly, you could reduce the amount you spend on fuel. Smarter driving could save you up to £220 a year in petrol or diesel. That is because you are using your car more efficiently so you save fuel and wear and tear on your vehicle and tyres.

By following these tips you could reduce your fuel consumption and CO² emissions by around 15%.

Tip 1: Change gear before 2500rpm (2000rpm for diesel).

Tip 2: Drive smoothly and anticipate traffic conditions to avoid heavy braking and acceleration



Tip 4: Slow down, faster speeds will always consume more fuel. At 85 mph you will use around 25% more fuel than 70 mph. Keep to the speed limit. The most efficient

Tip 3: Use air

conditioning sparingly, it can increase fuel

consumption by 10%.

speed is around 45 - 50 mph.

Tip 5: Drive away immediately from cold. Waiting for the car to warm up wastes your fuel and causes engine wear.

Tip 6: Remove roof racks when not in use. They cause drag which uses more fuel. Bike carriers and roof boxes also significantly affect your car's aerodynamics and fuel efficiency.

Tip 7: Avoid short journeys which use twice as much fuel when the engine is cold. Your first kilometre produces 60% more fumes than when the engine is warmed up.

Tip 8: Plan your journey to avoid congestion, road works and getting lost.

Tip 9: Check tyre pressures regularly as under inflated tyres use more fuel. They create more resistance, making your engine work harder which produces more CO² emissions. Simply check and adjust your tyre pressures regularly, and also before long journeys. This will also help increase the life of your tyres.

Tip 10: If you are in a hold up for more than a couple of minutes, turn off your engine. Modern cars use virtually no extra fuel when they are restarted.

Tip 11: Declutter your car as items in your boot are an extra weight that your engine has to carry around.

Tip 12: Regular servicing can help keep the engine at best efficiency.

Buying Your Next Car?

If you are thinking about buying a new or secondhand car, remember that more fuel efficient cars cause less pollution and will save you money on fuel and tax. The amount of road tax you pay is dependent on CO² emissions, so choose a car with the lowest CO² emissions. Fuel consumption of similar size cars can vary by as much as 45%.

You can find more about a car's CO² emissions:

- On the environmental label which should be displayed on all new cars in showrooms. Grade 'A' cars are the cleanest, least polluting vehicles
- where as grade 'G' cars are the most polluting.

■ The VCA Car Fuel Data website provides

information on the CO² emissions of all new cars. visit www.vcacarfueldata.ora.uk

- The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) have information for cars registered since 1997, visit www.smmt.co.uk/co2/co2search.cfm
- If you are buying a diesel car, choose one with a diesel particulate filter (DPF) as diesel engines without DPFs produce a lot more of the emissions that pollute towns and cities and affect health.

For more information on how to reduce CO^2 and save money please call Act on Energy **FREE** on:

actonenergy 0800 988 2881

