



## Saving Gas – Helping America



Due to higher forecasted crude oil prices, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts that drivers in the U.S. will be paying an average of \$2.74/gallon this summer, an increase of 11% over last summer. While projected prices are lower than those paid during the 2013 to 2017 period, gasoline and oil prices will remain volatile and dependent on crude oil prices. However, we can reduce the impact that gasoline prices have on our family budgets by driving less, driving smarter, and buying more economic vehicles.

All of us are dealing with variable gas prices in different ways. Whether we are driving less, driving smarter, buying a higher mpg vehicle, etc., our goal is to reduce the amount of gasoline we need to use on a regular basis. What does that mean for us and for our community and nation? Here's a list of benefits for using less gasoline:

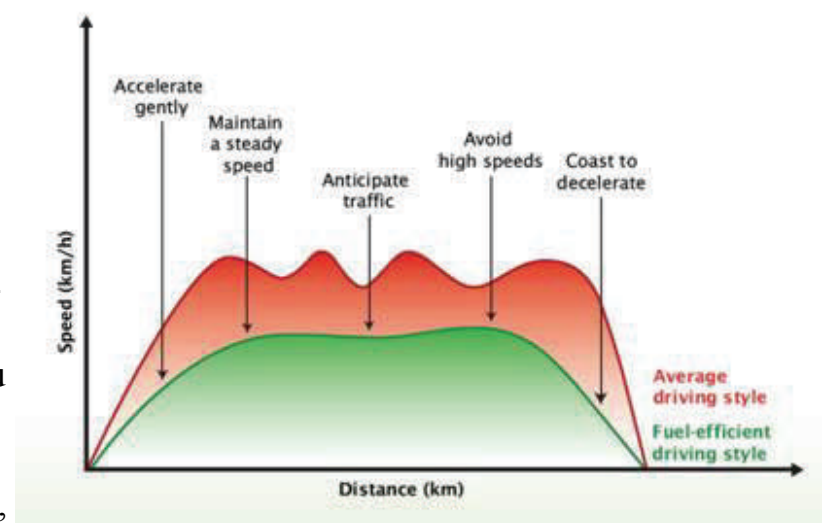
- It reduces our household operating expenses allowing us to save more money.
- It reduces the amount of U.S. dollars leaving the country and going into the pockets of the oil cartels and those who benefit from their riches.
- It reduces the urgency for US oil companies to drill off our sea shores or to demand incentives to drill for hard to get oil or produce it from unconventional sources (e.g. oil sands, etc.).
- Increases our national security as we become less dependent on foreign oil.
- Reduces the emission of pollutants that cause smog in our area.
- As more people buy smaller cars and new car technologies like hybrids and flex fuel vehicles, it provides the auto-makers more confidence to make the investments they need to compete with other countries in hybrid and other fuel saving technologies.

## Driving Smarter, What Does That Mean?

Driving smarter means that you use your vehicle efficiently both by the number of trips you take and maximizing the distance that you travel per gallon of gasoline. Here are some tips to being a smarter driver!:

- Make the most out of your trip by keeping a list of things you need to do involving travel so that you can accomplish multiple objectives on each trip. Take a route with the fewest stops and turns as you accomplish these tasks.
- Reduce the weight in your car by taking out unnecessary items. Every extra 100 lbs in your car reduces your fuel efficiency by about 2%.
- Anticipate your stops! Being aware of traffic (including pedestrians and wayward animals) ahead of you and rolling to a stop versus slamming on the breaks will save you a lot of fuel. When you brake hard you have wasted gas and increased wear on your brake pads unnecessarily.
- Accelerate smoothly with moderate throttle. When at a stop light, keep your eye on the light and traffic to assure you can proceed safely through the intersection, then accelerate at a moderate pace. Better fuel mileage can be achieved by very slow acceleration. However, steady and moderate is fine when considering those behind you and helping them through the light so they are not caught idling through another light cycle!
- Use cruise control on the highway. Set your cruise control at the speed limit and remain attentive to traffic, but in a more relaxed manner. Every 5 miles per hour you drive over 50 mph reduces your fuel efficiency by 5% or more.
- Avoid excessive idling. If you are stopped for a long period of time (i.e. waiting for your child outside of the school, stopping for a train, etc.), turn off your engine. Walk in to order food at a fast food restaurant rather than waiting in a drive-through line.
- Properly inflated tires can reduce fuel consumption by up to 3% .
- Most importantly, stay completely focused on your driving and avoid phone calls and text messaging. You will not only be a safer driver but a more fuel efficient driver as you anticipate traffic patterns, pedestrians and animals crossing the road, and other potential obstacles allowing you to measure your speed to reduce hard braking.

Five fuel-efficient driving techniques



## Thank You!

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