

U.S. Equities Realty + Illinois Tollway Oases

driving towards a greener tomorrow

GREEN DRIVING TIPS

FOLLOW THE SPEED LIMIT

Driving 65 mph instead of 75 mph will increase your fuel economy by about 10%, and can reduce tailpipe pollution.

WINDOWS

Try using vents and opening windows to cool off before you turn on the air conditioner. Air conditioning increases fuel consumption.

PARK IN THE SHADE

Park in the shade in the summer to keep your car cool and minimize evaporation of fuel.

CHECK FUEL ECONOMY

Check your fuel economy every few weeks. If you notice it slipping that could mean you have a problem with your engine or your brakes. Keep track at mymilemarker.com or set your trip odometer to zero when you fill-up, record the number of miles driven when tank empties, and divide by the number of gallons your tank holds.



EMPTY THE TRUNK

Take a load off. Carrying around extra pounds reduces fuel economy. Take a few moments to unload your cargo area.

CHANGE THE OIL

In addition to making your vehicle last longer, replacing the oil and oil filter regularly will also help fuel economy. Ask your service station if they recycle used oil or if you can take it to be recycled yourself. Ask for recycled oil as a replacement.

FILL UP

Patronize gas stations that have vapor-recovery nozzles (the black accordion-looking plastic devices attached to the nozzle) whenever you can.

CHECK THE TIRE PRESSURE

Keep your tires properly inflated. Tires should be inflated to the pressure recommended for your vehicle. Every 3 pounds below recommended pressure reduces fuel economy 1%. Tires lose about 1 pound of pressure per month, so check tires frequently.

SMOOTH DRIVING

Avoid "jack rabbit" starts and aggressive driving. Flooring the gas pedal not only wastes gas, it leads to higher pollution rates. One second of high powered driving can produce nearly the same volume of carbon monoxide emissions as 30 minutes of normal driving.

SMOOTH STOPPING

Try to anticipate stops and let your vehicle coast down when possible. Avoid the increased pollution, wasted gas, and wear on your brakes created by accelerating hard and braking hard.

ADDITIONAL TIPS:

- Avoid rush hour. Stop and go driving burns gas and increases emissions of smog forming pollutants.
- Combining several short trips into one can make a big difference, warmed up engines and catalysts generate much less air pollution.
- Use public transportation, walking, or biking when possible. Take advantage of employer "Commuter choice" programs. Ask if your employer is enrolled in a transit benefits program that offers workers tax-free transit use for commuting to work via public transportation.
- Consider joining a car share program, such as I-Go or Zip Car, to share a car near home or work

Source: GreenerCars.org