



Fall 2010 Conservation Board

Tips on Saving Gas and Making your Car More Fuel Efficient:

Most modern auto engines are most efficient at below highway speeds. The gas mileage difference between 60mph and 80mph is in the 15% range.

Tighten the gas cap after every fill-up. A loose, cracked or missing gas cap can emit harmful emissions and reduce gas mileage.

A properly inflated tire can increase gas mileage from 10 percent to 30 percent (Ideal inflation should be listed on the sidewall of the tire.)

Use the manufacturer's recommended grade of oil. Opt for the oil with the words "energy conserving" on the APL performance label. This oil contains friction-reducing additives.

Check your engine's air filter at each oil change.

Clear out your garage and make room for your car. Parking in your garage will help your car stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. You won't have to depend as much on your gas guzzling air-conditioning or defroster when you drive.

Go for the shade. The hot summer sun that makes the inside of the car feel like a sauna also zaps fuel from your gas tank.

"If you let your car bake in the sun, there's going to be a greater amount of evaporative emissions that take place than if you park in the shade," says the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy. (www.bankrate.com)

Combining errands into one trip saves you time and money. Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as a longer multipurpose trip covering the same distance when the engine is warmed up and efficient. With a little planning, you can avoid retracing your route and reduce the distance you travel as well. You will not only save fuel, but also reduce wear and tear on your car. www.fueleconomy.gov

Stay Warm in Winter

Keep out the cold

Keep windows shut, seal drafts around window frames and door frames, and if you own a home, have it well insulated.

Setting for Savings

During the day keep thermostats set at 68 degrees. Overnight turn it down to 60 degrees. These settings are comfortable and thrifty.

Let the Sunshine In

Full sunlight entering through windows and glass doors raise indoor temperature. This temperature rise can be considerable. By letting sunlight in, you make your home warmer so your heating system doesn't need to work as hard to make you comfortable. That lowers energy usage and reduces costs.

Keep clear—heating at work

Don't block heat sources. Remove obstructions from around radiators, baseboard heaters, or hot-air vents. To work their best, these need clear space.

Fans for Winter Comfort

Ceiling fans aren't just for summer. Run ceiling fans at their slowest setting to make your interiors more comfortable in winter. As radiators heat your home, the warm air rises. Temperature near the ceiling can be 10 to 15 degrees higher than at floor level. Ceiling fans running at a slow speed mix the warm air with the cooler, so you get even warming throughout the room.

Cold-Weather Common Sense

There are some things that you should avoid when you're trying to stay warm and comfortable. Think twice before using portable electric space heaters. They use a lot of energy. Just one can add \$60.00 or more to your electricity bill every month.

Never use the oven to heat your home. It's dangerous and can cause fires. It can also produce dangerous carbon monoxide gas fumes.

Back to School

Going back to school is an exciting time because everything's new-teachers, fellow students, supplies. However it is not very green to buy a whole new package of markers when last year's set works just fine. In addition to reusing old supplies, we've got a great list of ways to be as green as can be in the new school year.

- ◆ Use last year's school supplies.
- ◆ Buy a canvas and cardboard binder instead of plastic.
- ◆ Buy recycled paper.
- ◆ Use reusable water bottles instead of plastic.
- ◆ Use a lunch box not paper bags.
- ◆ Donate last year's clothes instead of throwing them away.
- ◆ Buy online to avoid driving.
- ◆ Buy organic food.
- ◆ Turn your computer off when your not using it.
- ◆ Make your own bookmarks.
- ◆ Organize a clothes swap with your friends.
- ◆ Carpool to sports. Courtesy of kids.nationalgeographic.com

Glossary of Green Terminology

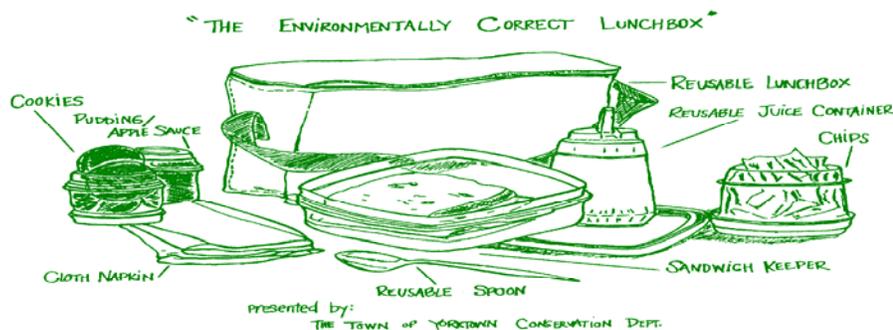
Energy Performance Ratings-You can use the energy performance ratings of windows, doors and skylights to tell you their potential for gaining or losing heat, as well as transmitting sunlight into your home.

Energy Services Company-A company that offers to reduce a client's utility costs, often with the cost savings being split with the client through an energy performance contract (EPC) or a shared savings agreement.

Energy Star- is a joint program of the US EPA and the US Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. In 1992 EPA introduced ENERGY STAR as a voluntary labeling program designed to identify and promote energy-efficient products to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Ethanol (CH₃-CH₂OH):- A clear, colorless, flammable oxygenated hydrocarbon. Ethanol is typically produced chemically from ethylene, or biologically from fermentation of various sugars from carbohydrates found in agricultural crops and cellulosic residues from crops or wood.. It is used in the US as a gasoline octane enhancer and oxygenate (blended up to 10 percent concentration).

Courtesy of www.gogreenva.org



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