

## Improving Gas Mileage and Lowering Fuel Consumption

Today's economy is tough and a penny saved is a penny earned. High fuel prices and excessive fuel consumption is not only costly from an agency operational standpoint, but from an individual consumer standpoint as well. When we consider necessary costs, such as gasoline, we should do what we can to improve the value and decrease the consumption. We can't directly change the high price of fuel, so how about proactively managing our vehicle maintenance and fuel consumption in order to gain a bigger bang for our buck? With that said here are some simple ways you can improve gas mileage and reduce fuel consumption:

- Regularly check your tire pressure. When needed, adjust the air to bring tires to their recommended pressure.
- Periodically check your vehicle's air filter and replace it when it is dirty or old.
- Whenever possible, avoid using your vehicle's air conditioner.
- Take your time and drive smoothly to avoid unnecessary acceleration and braking.
- Make it a point to plan more efficient routes. Attempt to avoid driving in traffic.
- Keep up with your vehicle's maintenance schedule and tune it up when recommended and needed.
- Ask a mechanic to check the gap on your spark plugs and have them adjusted or replaced as necessary.
- Ask a mechanic to look for fouled fuel injectors and replace them as necessary.
- Seek other ways to lower fuel consumption, such as walking or riding a bicycle. These alternatives are also a good way to benefit your health.
- Form a carpool.
- Utilize good time management and planning by consolidating several stops into one trip versus making several unnecessary trips.

### Tips & Considerations

- Depending on your vehicle's make and model, driving with the windows rolled down instead of using the air conditioner may cause increased drag, which could be less efficient than using the air conditioner.
- If your gas mileage suddenly plummets, see a mechanic. Your vehicle may be in need of serious maintenance.
- Always travel the speed limit or below.
- Fill up during the coldest part of the day. Gas becomes denser when it gets colder, so you get more for the same volume and same price.

These suggestions can lower the operational expense of your agency and decrease the burden on your own personal budget. Utilizing this information will not only improve gas mileage and lower fuel consumption; it will help improve your vehicle's longevity and efficiency. It's also a green approach and supports environmentally friendly initiatives.

**References:**

eHow.com, [www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com)

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