

SAVE MONEY BY GOING GREEN



More Singapore drivers are searching for ways to cut costs by improving fuel efficiency in their cars. A survey by oil company Shell of 300 motorists here showed that nine in 10 drivers would welcome further advice on how to save fuel.

The National Environment Agency (NEA) and the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) have come together to offer tips on "green driving". Below is a checklist of useful driving habits that lessen the burden on the wallet and help save the planet by cutting vehicle emissions of harmful greenhouse gases.



Say no to the car

Choose to use public transport, walk or cycle at least once a week.



Car pool

Start a carpool by getting together with your neighbours and colleagues – it reduces congestion on the roads and reduces fuel consumption.



Drive sensibly

Speeding, over-revving and sudden braking can lower a car's fuel efficiency by as much as 20 per cent. Adopt sensible driving practices like maintaining a safe distance from other cars and anticipating traffic conditions.



Observe the speed limit

A car's fuel efficiency decreases rapidly at speeds exceeding 90kmh. Drive within the speed limit and use cruise control when driving on the expressway.



Avoid excessive idling

Switch off the car engine if stationary for more than two minutes to cut unnecessary fuel consumption.



Service your car engine regularly

This optimises your car's fuel economy and ensures its reliability.



Inflate car tyres properly

Check tyres at least once a month to ensure they are inflated to the recommended tyre pressure as stated in your owner manual as this can improve fuel economy by 5 per cent.



Avoid unnecessary loads

An extra 50kg in your car can reduce its fuel efficiency by up to 2 per cent.



Use proper grade of car engine oil

Use the grade of car engine oil recommended by your car manufacturer.



Savings per year

\$2,700

\$2,400

\$650

\$400

\$150

\$150

\$100

\$65

\$35



Cut down in CO₂ emissions per year

4,400kg

3,400kg

900kg

500kg

200kg

200kg

100kg

90kg

50kg

Other tips for more fuel-efficient driving

- Plan ahead – limit the need for unnecessary driving by planning your trip before heading out so you take the best route available. Also tune in to the radio or visit websites like www.onemotoring.com.sg to check the latest traffic conditions on your chosen travel route.
- Using air-conditioning sparingly.
- Check air filters.

Choose public transport over driving

Over the same distance, a car releases four times as much greenhouse gases into the environment compared to the MRT and twice as much as the bus to move one passenger.

Park and Ride

Transitlink's Park and Ride scheme allows drivers to leave their cars at designated parking lots and continue their journey by bus or train.

Sources: NEA & SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL