

Information  
provided by the City  
of El Paso's Office of  
Sustainability

December 2013

# **10 Tips to Help You Drive Efficiently and SAVE FUEL**

# Tip#1: Avoid idling

- o Idling your car can waste up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon of fuel per hour
- o Remember the **30 second rule**—it takes more gas to idle for 30 seconds than it does to restart your engine



# Tip#2: Plan your trip

- Avoid traffic
  - Avoid the stop-and-go
  - Maintaining a constant speed **saves more gas** than stopping and going
- Drive during **off-peak** hours
- Combine trips
  - Several short trips taken from a cold start can use **TWICE AS MUCH FUEL** as taking them all together at the same time when the engine is already warmed up



# Tip#3: Avoid aggressive driving

- o **Aggressive driving** includes: speeding, rapid acceleration, and rapid breaking
- o Can **reduce gas mileage by 33%** on the highway
- o Abrupt starts require about **twice as much gasoline** as gradual starts.
- o Also reduces wear and tear on tires and brakes—saving money on maintenance



# Tip#4: Chill out on the A/C

- o Using the air conditioner increases fuel costs anywhere from **13% to 21%**
- o **Roll down the windows** (when driving at low speeds) or use flow-through ventilation, as an alternative to A/C
  - o At highway speeds, roll up windows to reduce drag
- o If you must use the A/C, roll up your windows



# Tip#5: Share rides and reduce trips

- **Carpool**
- **Walk or bike for short trips**
- **Call, fax, or email documents**



# Tip#6: Choose the right vehicle for your trip

- o Use the **most efficient vehicle** available
  - o Environmental Services has one electric vehicle – **the Leaf**
  - o Do not use a large truck if you do not need to haul anything



# Tip #7: Keep tires properly inflated

- o Properly inflated tires could **improve gas mileage by up to 3.3%**
- o You can find the proper tire pressure for your vehicle on your driver's side door, in the glove box, or in the owner's manual





# Tip#8: Properly maintain car



## ○ Replace dirty air filters:

- This can **increase gas mileage by as much as 10%** AND keep impurities out of your engine

## ○ Change the oil:

- Using fresh and clean oil that is recommended for your vehicle will save you **3 to 5 cents a gallon**

## ○ Check your gas cap:

- About 17% of the vehicles on the roads have gas caps that are either damaged, loose or missing, causing 147 million gallons of gas to vaporize every year.
- Loose gas caps can reduce fuel efficiency by 2 MPG

## ○ Tune-up:

- An engine tune-up can improve car fuel economy by an average of 1 MPG, with an average savings of 14 cents a gallon.



# Tip#9: Slow it down

- o Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph.
- o Dept. of Energy estimates that every 5 MPH over 60 is like paying an extra **29 cents** per gallon of gas



# Tip#10: No junk in the trunk

- o Remove any unnecessary cargo
- o An extra 100 pounds in your car can reduce gas mileage by 2%



# Additional Money Savings Information

FUEL EFFICIENCY TIPS	MPG INCREASE	ANNUAL SAVINGS
<b>Smart Driving</b>		
Avoid Aggressive Driving	up to 33%	\$981
Drive safe (highway)	up to 10%	\$218
Lose 100 pounds from trunk	up to 2%	\$40
<b>Car Maintenance</b>		
Tune Up Vehicle	up to 4%	\$82
Fix Oxygen Sensor	up to 40%	\$1,308
Keep tires inflated	up to 3%	\$61
Use recommended oil	up to 2%	\$40
<b>Fuel Efficient Car</b>	Switching from 20 MPG to 30 MPG vehicle	\$930 in fuel costs*

*The MPG increases and dollar savings are estimated for each tip based on data from 2011 Transportation Energy Data Book and U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) assuming vehicle fuel economy as 21.2MPG, average national gas price as \$3.68/gallon, and annual 11,300 miles of travel. Actual results depend on how well you already follow these practices, whether you use more than one tip at a time, and other factors.*

\* Sources: *Alliance to Save Energy* research & *Department of Energy*

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