

# Fuel-Saving Tips from Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency



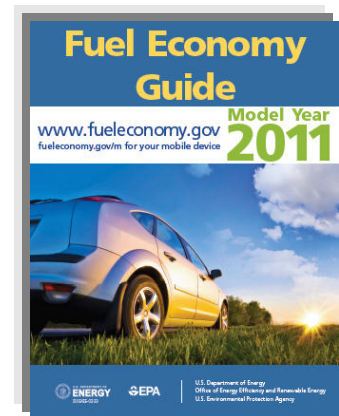
[www.noaca.org](http://www.noaca.org)

## Know Your Miles per Gallon (MPG)

Miles per gallon can be calculated by filling your tank, setting your trip odometer, driving until the tank is getting close to empty, filling the tank again, reading the total miles traveled on your trip odometer, and dividing that number by the number of gallons of gas that you put in at the second fill-up.

## Drive a Fuel-Efficient Vehicle

Get miles per gallon (MPG) ratings on various cars and trucks, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), at: [www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/Index.do](http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/Index.do). Look up the new or old models that interest you, or rank all the vehicles from most efficient to least. Also find ratings for your current car.



## Regular Service & Maintenance of Your Car or Truck

Improve your gas mileage by keeping your vehicle well-maintained.



**Tune-up**  
\$0.11/gal savings



**Replace Air Filter**  
Improve Acceleration



**Oil Change**  
\$0.05/gal savings

TIRE SIZE	TIRE INFLATION PRESSURE <sup>kPa</sup> (psi)	
	FRONT	REAR
P255/70R16 109S	(A) 180 (26)	180 (26)
	(B) 180 (26)	180 (26)

(A) : TO 5 PASSENGERS  
(B) : (A) TO MAX. LOAD OR TRAILER TOWING  
PART NO. : MR491176 E

**Check Tire Pressure**  
\$0.08/gal savings

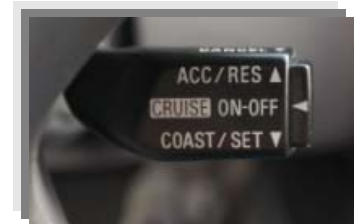
- Air Filters: Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage and acceleration time by as much as 10%.
- Tune-Up: A tune-up for a poorly performing vehicle can improve gas mileage by 4%.
- Oxygen Sensors: Replacing a faulty oxygen sensor can improve gas mileage by as much as 40%.
- Oil Change: Using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil can improve gas mileage by up to 2%.

- Tire Pressure: Inflating tires to their proper level can improve gas mileage by approximately 3%.
- Wheel Alignment: Periodic wheel alignments can improve gas mileage up to 10%.
- Other problems, like dirty spark plugs, faulty gas caps, broken thermostats, low transmission fluid, and sticky brake calipers can also seriously affect gas mileage.

### Drive more efficiently

Speeding, rapid acceleration, and abrupt braking all make an engine work harder, which reduces up to 33% of your mileage.

- Buffering: Leave a big enough buffer between you and the car ahead, at least 2 seconds or more, allowing time for coasting rather than braking. Drivers apply their brakes 10-25% more often than they need to.
- Relieving the Traffic Jam: Look down the road for potential jams. Approach them slowly so that you don't end up stopping completely and accelerating again. Also, on freeways, always allow others to merge easily to avoid creating new traffic jams.
- Accelerate Smoothly: By accelerating gradually and driving smoothly, you could increase MPG by as much as 20%.
- Use Cruise Control: Cruise control can force you to drive more smoothly on long, level trips. (On uphill, you may want to skip it because it will force the car to maintain a constant speed, when the fuel-efficient thing to do is to allow the car to gradually slow somewhat with the uphill effort.) Another interesting use of cruise control is in slow acceleration by incremental tapping – see [www.hypermiling.com](http://www.hypermiling.com) for a description of how to do this safely.
- Slow Down: As speed increases, gas mileage decreases. A vehicle moving at 55 mph gets about 15% better gas mileage than the same vehicle going 65 mph. Every 5 mph you drive over 60 mph costs an additional 27 cents per gallon of gas.



### Turn Off the AC

If you don't need to run the air conditioner, don't. Air conditioning uses more fuel. Use your vents and windows at lower speeds. But at higher speeds, the air conditioner may actually be more efficient than the wind resistance from open windows.

**Don't Idle Your Engine!**



## Idling gets zero MPG

- Don't go through a drive-thru; park and go inside instead.
- If you are parked and waiting for someone, turn off your engine. Idling uses more fuel than turning the engine off, unless the idle time is less than 60 seconds.
- Don't warm up your vehicle. Modern vehicles warm up fastest by driving them, not by idling them, unless it is below 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

## Combine Trips

- Combine all your errands into one trip and organize all your stops so you don't retrace your path.
- Plan your trips so you are driving at less congested times of the day.



## Clean Out Your Car

The more weight that is in your car, the more gas it needs to do the work. Clean out your trunk, backseat, or pickup bed and remove anything that is unnecessary. It doesn't take much to acquire an extra 40-50 lbs. of stuff and removing this can increase your MPG by 1-2%.

## Transport Alternatives

### ➤ Carpool

Find a partner, even for just 1 day a week, using our free service at: [www.OhioRideshare.org](http://www.OhioRideshare.org).



### ➤ Bike To Work and Bike To Do Errands

View or print a county bike route map at [www.noaca.org/bikemaps.html](http://www.noaca.org/bikemaps.html).

### ➤ Ride the Bus

Cuyahoga County: [www.rideRTA.com](http://www.rideRTA.com)

Summit County: [www.akronmetro.org](http://www.akronmetro.org)

Lake County: [www.laketran.com](http://www.laketran.com)

Portage County: [www.partaonline.org](http://www.partaonline.org)

Medina County: [www.co.medina.oh.us/transit.htm](http://www.co.medina.oh.us/transit.htm)

Geauga County: [www.geaugatransit.org](http://www.geaugatransit.org)



### ➤ Walk

### ➤ Telecommute (Work From Home)

Let technology work for you.

### ➤ Compressed Work Week (Work four 10-hour days)

Looking for a day off from work?

Work four 10-hour days this week and take a day off!

## Car Sharing

Consider joining a "car co-op" such as City Wheels ([www.mycitywheels.com](http://www.mycitywheels.com)), where members pay a small membership fee for the privilege of renting a car whenever they need one. The hourly rental rate is usually all-inclusive. Having a "part-time" car may encourage you to drive less.

## Never Turn Left

In 2004, UPS announced that its drivers would avoid making left turns whenever possible. The time spent idling while waiting to turn against oncoming traffic burns fuel and costs millions of dollars each year. A software program used by UPS maps a customized route for every driver to minimize lefts.

## What Can You Save in Terms of Air Pollution and Money?

For every 20-mile round-trip that you eliminate, you will save a gallon of gas, wear-and-tear on your vehicle, and the frustration of dealing with traffic. If every person in Northeast Ohio saved just one trip it would eliminate:

- 2.12 tons Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- 4.63 tons Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx)
- 0.77 tons Particulate Matter (PM)
- 10,150 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Tons of Carbon Monoxide (CO)
- And several toxics such as Benzene and Toluene

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) contribute to ground-level ozone, and particulate matter (PM). For more info, please see the [Ozone Action Day](#) page. NOx and PM contribute to Northeast Ohio's fine particle problem. For more info, please see the [Fine Particle Pollution Program](#) page.

**Climate Change Impact:** For every additional 2 miles per gallon that you gain, you are decreasing the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitted into the air by more than 2,000 pounds per year.

Results will vary, depending on the make, model, and age of your vehicle, as well as factors like weather and road conditions.

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*For more information on fuel conservation, you may wish to visit:*

[www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/Index.do](http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/Index.do)  
[www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.shtml](http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.shtml)  
[www.hpermiling.com](http://www.hpermiling.com)  
[www.cartalk.com/content/eco/tips.html](http://www.cartalk.com/content/eco/tips.html)

*For more information on air pollution, visit:*

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)