

### Tighten your petrol cap

It may seem like a small thing to do, but tightening the fuel cap on your car will prevent petrol from evaporating and escaping into the air.

### Downsize or consider a more fuel efficient car

If you are considering your options or shopping for a new car, it's time to re-evaluate how much car you really need. Smaller cars are inherently more fuel-efficient. Look out for fuel consumption figures and carbon emissions to save money in fuel and tax. Hybrid vehicles are generally more fuel efficient than non-hybrids of equivalent size.

### Drive less - do you need to drive?

Try to consider alternative sustainable transport modes, such as walking or cycling before making the decision to drive. Walking and cycling require no fuel, and can improve health and fitness.



## Contact Details and Further Information

For further information about cleaner vehicles, alternative fuels and advanced driving techniques (e.g. Eco-Driving) or journey planning, visit the following websites.

#### Energy Saving Trust - Further energy saving tips

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Travel](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Travel)

#### Act on CO<sub>2</sub> - Further energy saving tips

[www.actonco2.direct.gov.uk/actonco2/home/what-you-can-do/driving-your-car.html](http://www.actonco2.direct.gov.uk/actonco2/home/what-you-can-do/driving-your-car.html)

#### Northamptonshire County Council - Local Public Transport services

[www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/pubtrans/](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/pubtrans/)

#### Transport Direct - Online Route Journey Planner

[www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info)

# A Cleaner Drive

## Fuel Efficient Driving



Save fuel, money and carbon emissions

This leaflet contains tips on **fuel efficient driving** that will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, but could save you hundreds of pounds a year in fuel costs. It contains advice on driving techniques, car maintenance, alternative fuels and cleaner vehicles aimed at encouraging you to make informed decisions regarding your vehicle.

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# Why change?

Every time you use your car, you are producing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) - a harmful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. By adopting simple vehicle maintenance tips and attention to your style of driving, you can boost the overall fuel-efficiency of your car by as much as 30%.

Better still, be car free! If you can reduce your car use for a number of everyday journeys, it could be cheaper to sell your car and use alternatives. For example, use public transport where possible, or cycle/walk shorter journeys. Savings in insurance, road tax, depreciation and car loan etc could outweigh the costs of the alternative.

Carbon calculators are a great way of discovering the impact of travel choices on overall emissions. There are a number of carbon calculators available on-line. For example, a carbon calculator can be accessed through the following website ([http://www.travelfootprint.org/journey\\_emissions/](http://www.travelfootprint.org/journey_emissions/)). This will tell you the associated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for any given journey and provides a comparison against alternative modes of transport.

# Can I Drive more Efficiently?

If you have no alternative but to drive for certain journeys, this leaflet outlines a number of measures to reduce your carbon emissions and impact on the environment.



## ▼ Avoid heavy 'revving' of the engine

The harder the engine is working, the more fuel you use - ensure you keep to between 2,000-2,500rpm when changing gears. Driving in a lower gear than appropriate to the conditions increases fuel consumption.

## ▼ Reduce your Load

The more weight you carry, the less efficient your car. Remove any items you're not using, such as roof racks, trailers and any heavy items that may be stored in the boot.

## ▼ Maintain your tyre pressure at the recommended level

Check your tyre pressure at least once a month. Refer to your car handbook to establish the optimum pressure for your make and model. Under-inflated tyres can cause fuel consumption to increase and run the risk of overheating. Over and under inflation can cause increased wear and tyres will need to be replaced more regularly.

## ▼ Be aware

Anticipation and awareness reduces the need for sharp braking. Smoother driving has a positive impact on fuel consumption.

## ▼ Use your air conditioner sparingly and switch off unused power accessories

The use of air conditioning increases the amount of fuel you use and should be used only when essential. Be sure to shut off all power-consuming accessories before turning off the ignition. Items that plug into your vehicle's cigarette lighter can cause the alternator to work harder to provide electrical current.

## ▼ Reduce your speed

The faster you drive, the greater the fuel consumption and emission of carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide. Subject to speed limits, the most efficient speed is 45mph-55mph.

## ▼ Plan your trip in advance

Try to combine several errands in one outing, and plan your route to avoid times of greatest congestion, road works and avoid getting lost. Plan your journey with the help of journey planning websites (e.g. <http://www.trafficengland.com>).

## ▼ Service your vehicle regularly

A poorly tuned engine can increase fuel consumption and produces more emissions than one that is running properly.