

## GREENE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

ROGER AXE, DIRECTOR

P.O. BOX 222 - BLOOMFIELD, IN 47424 - Ph. or Fax 812-384-4127



*Making Greene County  
a Safer Place to Live*



## **Are Gas Prices Driving You to the Poorhouse? Will You Be Able to Get By?**

We've all experienced "pain at the pump." Here are some simple steps you can take to squeeze those extra miles out of the gasoline you buy:

### **DURING ENGINE WARM-UP:**

1. Avoid prolonged warming up of the engine, even on cold mornings - 30 to 45 seconds is plenty of time.
2. Don't start and stop engine needlessly. Idling your engine for one minute consumes the gas amount equivalent to when you start the engine.
3. Avoid "revving" the engine, especially just before you switch the engine off; this wastes fuel needlessly and washes oil down from the inside cylinder walls, owing to loss of oil pressure.
4. Eliminate jack-rabbit starts. Accelerate slowly when starting from a dead stop. Don't push the pedal down more than 1/4 of the total foot travel. This allows carburetor to function at peak efficiency.

### **BUYING GASOLINE:**

5. Buy gasoline during coolest time of day - early morning or late evening is best. During these times gasoline is densest. Keep in mind - gas pumps measure volumes of gasoline, not densities of fuel concentration. You are charged according to "volume of measurement."
6. Choose type and brand of gasoline carefully. Certain brands provide you with greater economy because of better quality. Use the brands which "seem" most beneficial.
7. Avoid filling the gas tank to the top. Overfilling results in sloshing over and out of tank. Never fill gas tank past the first "click" of fuel nozzle (if nozzle is automatic).



## **DRIVING ECONOMICALLY:**

8. Never exceed the legal speed limit. Primarily speed limits are set for your traveling safety; however, better gas efficiency also occurs. Traveling at 55 mph gives you up to 21% better mileage when compared to former legal speed limits of 65 mph and 70 mph.
9. Traveling at fast rates in low gears can consume up to 45% more fuel than is needed.
10. Keep windows closed when traveling at highway speeds. Open windows cause air drag, reducing your mileage by 10%.
11. Drive steadily. Slowing down or speeding up wastes fuel. Also avoid tailgating - the driver in front of you is unpredictable. Not only is it unsafe, but it affects your economy, if he slows down unexpectedly.
12. Think ahead when approaching hills. If you accelerate, do it before you reach the hill, not while driving up the hill.
13. Do not rest left foot on floor board pedals while driving. The slightest pressure puts "mechanical drag" on components, wearing them down prematurely. This "dragging" also demands additional fuel usage.
14. Avoid rough roads whenever possible, because dirt or gravel robs you of up to 30% of your gas mileage.
15. Use alternate roads when safer, shorter, or straighter. Compare traveling distance differences - remember that corners, curves, and lane jumping requires extra gas. The shortest distance between two points is always straight.
16. Stoplights are usually timed for your motoring advantage. By traveling steadily at the legal speed limit, you boost your chances of having the "green light" all the way.
17. Car pools reduce travel monotony and gas expense -- all riders chip in to help you buy. Conservation helps to keep the driver alert. Pooling also reduces traffic congestion, gives the driver easier maneuverability, and greater "steady speed" economy. For best results, distribute passenger weight evenly throughout car.

## **TAKING CARE OF YOUR VEHICLE(S):**

18. Automatic transmissions should be allowed to cool down when car is idling at a standstill, e.g., railroad crossings, long traffic lights, etc. Place car gear into neutral position. This reduces transmission strain and allows transmission to cool.
19. Regular tune-ups ensure best economy; check owner's manual for recommended maintenance intervals. Special attention should be given to maintaining clean air filters... diminished air flow increases gas waste.
20. Inspect suspension and chassis parts for occasional misalignment. Bent wheels, axles, bad shocks, broken springs, etc., create engine drag and are unsafe at high traveling speeds.
21. Inflate all tires to maximum limit. Each tire should be periodically spun, balanced, and checked for out-of-round. When shopping for new tires, get large diameter tires for rear wheels. Radial designs are the recognized fuel-savers; check manufacturer's specifications for maximum tire pressures.
22. Remove excess weight from trunk or inside of car -- extra tires, back seats, unnecessary heavy parts. Extra weight reduces mileage, especially when driving up inclines.
23. During cold weather, watch for icicles frozen to car frame; up to 100 lbs. can be accumulated! Unremoved snow and ice cause tremendous wind resistance.

*We wish to thank **How to Advice.com** for their help.*