

More miles for your money

A guide to smarter driving

Most of us would say we spend too much on fuel. And since prices at the pumps tend to go up, the only way to spend less on filling up the car is to cut consumption. The good news is that there are three ways to use less fuel.

1) Smarter driving

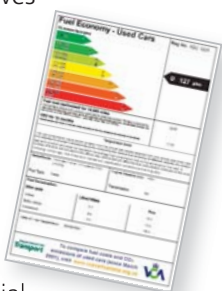
Adopting 'smarter-driving' techniques can save fuel and save money. See box overleaf for examples. These techniques will also make you a safer driver and reduce wear and tear on your car. How much you save depends on how much you drive, but for average drivers it can be hundreds of pounds a year.

2) Buying a fuel-efficient car

Choosing a fuel-efficient car will help you save money and produce less emissions. But before you make your choice you should consider your requirements. What kind of journeys do you make, how many passengers do you carry and so on. Note that fuel-efficient models tend to be smaller, so they may not suit large families or be appropriate for someone who often drives long-distances.

What engine: diesel, petrol, hybrid or electric?

Diesel cars are more fuel efficient and have lower CO₂ emissions than the comparable petrol car. This means that a diesel car may save you money in the long term, even if the initial costs of buying the car are higher. Look at the car fuel-economy label on new and second-hand vehicles for more information (pictured).



Smarter driving cuts petrol consumption, reduces stress and makes you a safer driver

Hybrid cars, like the one pictured below left, are 25% more efficient than other cars. They achieve this by combining an electric motor with a conventional engine. The electric motor charges batteries which at times provide the sole power supply of the car.

Traditionally hybrids work best when you are driving around town, so if you mainly drive on long journeys, they may not be the best option.

Electric cars are a great way to cut CO₂ emissions and reduce fuel costs. They use a rechargeable battery to power them that simply plugs in to an electricity supply and are a good option for shorter journeys and daily commutes. They are expensive, but you can claim a grant of £5,000 towards the cost of a new one. More details can be found by calling your local Energy Saving Trust advice centre on **0800 512 012** or by emailing transport@cse.org.uk

New and used cars display a fuel-efficiency label which grade the car by its CO₂ emissions, from 'A', the least, to 'M', the most. It also states the cost of road tax and the average cost per 12,000 miles. For fuel data of new and used cars visit www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk



This hybrid has both a petrol and an electric motor



For the best green car news, reviews and a comprehensive green car guide visit www.green-car-guide.com

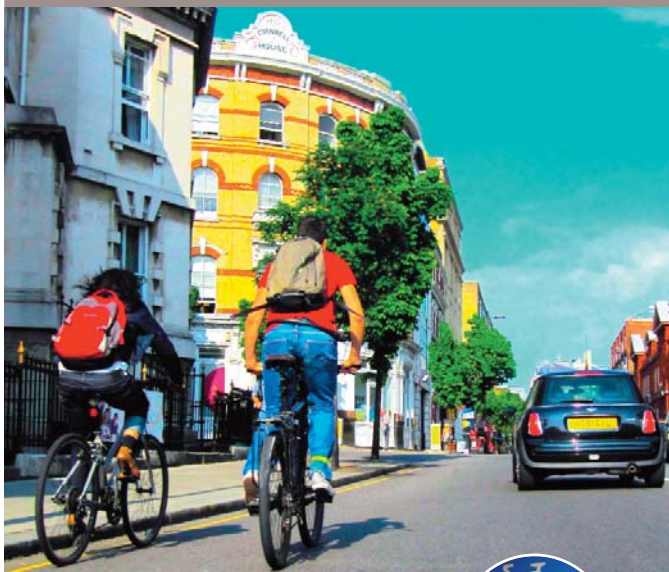
3) Using your car less

Why use your car less? It's obvious really. If you can cycle or walk instead of taking the car, you'll save fuel, save money, reduce wear and tear on your car and get a bit fitter into the bargain.

Then there's car-sharing. Sharing a journey with a friend or colleague can relieve the stress of every day commuting. You can find out more about car sharing schemes by visiting www.liftshare.com

For up to date travel news, as well as planning your journey visit www.transportdirect.info. To find a route near you or read tips on cycling to work or school visit www.sustrans.org.uk. From cycle training to low carbon business clubs, your local advice centre will point you in the right direction. Call **0800 512 012**.

Riding a bike may get you there quicker than driving, and keeps you fit into the bargain!



This leaflet was produced by the **Centre for Sustainable Energy**, a national charity that helps people change the way they think and act on energy.

We offer free advice on domestic energy use. Call free on 0800 512 012 or go to www.cse.org.uk/advice



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Smart-driving

The key to cutting fuel consumption



Check your revs: when you speed up, change gear at 2000-2500rpm.

Watch your speed: the most efficient speed is 45-50mph. The difference between 70mph and 85mph is 25% more fuel used.

Read the road: anticipate the road ahead to reduce over-acceleration and sharp braking.

Step off the gas: stay in gear but take your foot off the accelerator as early as possible when approaching a red light or roundabout. This cuts fuel to the engine to almost zero.

Plan your journey: a bit of preparation will help you to avoid congestion and/or road works.

Drive off from cold: modern cars don't need to be warmed up: just drive off from cold.

Check your tyres: under inflated tyres increase fuel consumption and are potentially dangerous.

Reduce 'drag': remove roof racks, bike carriers and top-boxes if you are not using them.

Switch off: if you are going to be stationary for more than a minute, switch off your engine to save fuel.

Air conditioning: use it sparingly, as it increases your fuel consumption. But on the motorway it's better than opening a window which increases wind resistance.

Invest in a satnav: many satnavs now have features that help you avoid traffic congestion.



* This is the phone number of the Energy Saving Trust advice service | All photos from www.flickr.com: Esa Pitkanen (Cambridge traffic); Robert Scoble (Prius); Quinn Dombrowski (keys); Danny McL (cycling in London); Romain Guy (dashboard).