

## REDUCE DRIVING TIME

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- Aspire to carlessness - living carfree might be more within reach than you think. Living closer to work and school is a big part of it. Walking, biking, public transport, car sharing, car borrowing, and teleconferencing are a strong arsenal of tools to help reduce the need for a car.
- Drive wise and minimize unnecessary miles by doing errands in one trip, getting good directions, and calling ahead.
- Drive part of the way - If getting where you're going by bike or public transit alone isn't going to happen, consider driving part of the way and then jumping on public transit or your bike (a folder would be perfect).
- Short trips can be especially hard on your pocketbook. Trips of less than five kilometres generally do not allow the engine to reach its peak operating temperature, especially in cold weather. That means fuel consumption and exhaust emissions will be significantly higher than when covering the same distance with a warm engine.
- Carpool - Of course. Find coworkers, neighbors, and fellow students headed the same direction. Start with one shared trip per week. Also look into car sharing programs like FlexCar and ZipCar.
- Speak up - Become an advocate for strong fuel-economy standards, better public transit, more bike lanes, better sidewalks, and more car-free areas in your city.

## WINTER

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- Do not let your car idle to warm it up -- Modern vehicle engines only require 30 seconds of idling in the winter to circulate oil through the engine. Allowing your vehicle to idle for more than 30 seconds wastes fuel and does nothing to heat the engine. It's better to drive off without rapidly accelerating for the first five kilometres or until the temperature gauge begins to rise, assuming that your windows are clear. Engines that idle too often can suffer wear and stress from working below their ideal operating temperature — leading to hefty maintenance costs down the road!
- Use an automatic timer to switch on the block heater two hours before you plan to drive the vehicle. This is all the time needed to warm the engine.
- Snow piled on top of the vehicle increases aerodynamic drag and vehicle weight. For safety as well as fuel economy, clear snow off your vehicle before you drive away.
- Your tires need special attention during the winter. Cold temperatures decrease the air pressure in tires. This just adds to the rolling resistance caused by snow and slush. Each tire that is under-inflated by 2 psi (14 kPa) causes a 1 % increase in fuel consumption. So check tire pressures regularly, especially after a sharp drop in temperature.

*All of the information provided within is for general information purposes only. It is recommended that you consult directly with a qualified professional to seek advice based on your specific circumstances. Neither Transition Brockville nor its volunteers are liable for any inaccurate or misleading information contained herein, nor for any actions taken or not taken in reliance upon such information.*

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## TRANSITION BROCKVILLE

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[transitionbrockville.com](http://transitionbrockville.com)

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### *Energy-Saving Tips for your Vehicle*

Approximately 35 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions in Canada are due to transportation. CO2 emissions are a product of the combustion of motor fuels such as gasoline and ethanol.



**You must be the change you wish to see in the world. MAHATMA GANDHI**

## READY! SET!

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- Keeping up on your car's maintenance, things like regular oil changes, air-filter changes, and spark plug replacements can increase your MPG up to 25%.
- Good tires - Different tires affect MPG in different ways. When you're in the market for new tires, look for the ones that help give you the best mileage. (And don't forget about proper inflation!)
- Your vehicle could stand to lose a few pounds. Those heavy bags of sand and salt you may carry around in your trunk during winter serve no useful purpose in spring, summer and fall. The extra weight just means wasted fuel and unnecessary emissions. Treat your trunk to a spring cleaning!
- Ski racks, like roof racks, increase a vehicle's aerodynamic drag. It's a good idea to remove them when they are not in use.
- Excess weight also uses more fuel. Remove unnecessary items from inside your vehicle or trunk. An extra 45 kilograms (about 100 lb) can increase your fuel costs by 2 per cent. (Think about those golf clubs!)

This brochure has been made possible by

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## GO!

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- Don't drive aggressively - Jackrabbit starts and hard braking can increase fuel consumption up to 40 per cent. Accelerate smoothly from a stop when passing other vehicles or merging on a highway, and don't tailgate.
- Turn your vehicle off when idle - if you are going to be stopped for longer than 10 seconds, except in traffic, turn off the engine. More than 10 seconds of idling can use more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it again.
- Give yourself enough time to get where you're going - racing against the clock causes you to brake hard, accelerate quickly and drive too fast, all of which burn fuel needlessly. Listen to the radio for traffic reports on accidents, road construction and other trouble spots to avoid. You'll save time as well as gas.
- To get full benefit from a manual transmission, shift up to the next gear as soon as possible and always keep the vehicle in the highest gear possible without "lugging." Most modern cars can run in top gear even at speeds below 60 km/h.
- Using your transmission's overdrive gear (automatic transmission) at high speeds reduces your engine's workload which saves fuel and reduces engine wear.
- Be sure to shut off and unplug all power-consuming accessories, such as phone chargers, air conditioning, stereos, etc., before turning off the vehicle. Turning off accessories decreases the engine load for the next time you start your vehicle, and will subsequently use less gas.

## COOL IT!

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- Easy on the AC - Use the windows to help keep the car cool. Or try an electric or solar fan. Parking in the shade and using a reflective windshield shade can keep your car cooler when parked, meaning it takes less to cool it off when you get back in.
- Minimize your use of air conditioning to improve your fuel efficiency in summer. To stay cool at highway speeds, use your car's flow-through ventilation. When driving in the city, open a window.
- The impact of aerodynamic drag is relatively small at low speeds, so your car will hardly feel the increased drag caused by an open window. If you still need air conditioning, keep the windows closed and use the air conditioner only as needed.

## CHOOSING A VEHICLE

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- Fuel consumption ratings for all new cars, light-duty trucks and vans sold in Canada are available in the free Fuel Consumption Guide produced by Natural Resources Canada. You can download a PDF version of the Guide, or call 1-800-387-2000 to order your free copy.
- It is a good idea to choose the smallest vehicle that you will need to perform your daily tasks. Larger vehicles tend to be heavier and have bigger and more powerful engines. Under normal driving conditions, smaller engines deliver better fuel economy than larger engines.
- The type of transmission in your car can also effect your fuel energy efficiency. As a general rule, a manual transmission is more fuel efficient than an automatic, assuming you shift properly.