



ECO-DRIVE MICHIGAN

Individual driving techniques have a big impact on fuel consumption and on the environment. That's why "Eco-drive" is an important term for Michigan drivers to learn. Eco-driving is a way of operating your vehicle that reduces fuel consumption, carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas) emissions, air pollution and accident rates.

If money is tight, you're concerned about dwindling fuel supplies, or you want to pollute less, then eco-driving is for you! This modern driving style began in Europe and is catching on across the nation. It uses smart, smooth and safe techniques that generate fuel savings of 10 to 25%. Successful eco-driving programs also report traffic noise reductions and fewer accidents.

ECO-DRIVE ACTIONS:

Follow these tips to reduce fuel use. Try them – they're easy.



1. **Avoid "jack rabbit" starts and stops.** Anticipate traffic conditions and accelerate and decelerate smoothly. It's safer, uses less gas, reduces brake wear, and, on average, gets you to your destination just as quickly.
2. **Avoid excess idling.** Don't idle while waiting for passengers and consider parking your car and going inside instead of using "drive-up" lanes ... especially during busy times.
3. **Plan your trip.** Plan and consolidate trips for less; less traffic congestion & road work, idling, engine start ups, "stop and go" traffic, and time spent asking directions when lost.
4. **Avoid short journeys.** Link several errands into one outing, because a cold engine uses nearly twice the fuel plus catalytic converters take several miles to become effective.
5. **Engine warming is obsolete.** Today's engines don't need to be warmed up in the winter. Prolonged idling creates excess emissions and wastes fuel.
6. **Observe speed limits.** It's safer and saves gas. EPA estimates a 10-15% improvement by driving 55 instead of 65 mph.
7. **Maintain a steady speed.** Using cruise control on the highway is ideal because it decreases gas pedal activity (except in hilly terrain).
8. **Maintain your vehicle.** Replace air filters as recommended in your owner's manual.
9. **Keep tires inflated.** Check tires for the recommended pressure and keep them fully inflated. This alone can reduce the amount of fuel you use by 3-4%.
10. **Use climate controls selectively.** Use your heater and air conditioning selectively in order to reduce the load on your engine.
11. **Avoid "topping-off" the gas tank when refueling.** Overfilling your gas tank can result in spilled gasoline that contributes to air pollution when it evaporates.
12. **Remove excess weight and drag.** Extra weight and unneeded items in the trunk make the engine work harder and consume more fuel. Accessories such as roof racks, bike carriers, and roof boxes affect aerodynamics and reduce fuel efficiency.

Adopting an eco-driving style is easy. Once you've mastered it, you'll start to enjoy real savings and also will be doing your bit for the environment.

With careful and environmentally responsible driving, you can enjoy a safer ride, cut exhaust emissions, save fuel, and save money at the gas pump!