

TIPS ON REDUCING FUEL USE

- Keep vehicles properly maintained to manufacturer's specs.
 - Engines with worn spark plugs or dirty fuel filters burn more fuel; however, some cars have plugs designed to last 100,000 miles.
 - Under-inflated tires can cut fuel economy by up to 2% per pound of pressure below recommended level.
- Know the correct starting procedure for your car. Racing the engine to warm it wastes fuel. New engines need no warming time prior to driving: start the car, ease into gear and go.
- SLOW DOWN. The faster you travel, the more fuel you use.
- Use air conditioning only when necessary as it reduces fuel economy by 5%. Light exterior colors, light interior cloth seats and tinted windows can reduce heat build-up, thus reducing the need for air-conditioning.
- Lighten the load. A heavier vehicle uses more fuel.
 - Some trucks, vans and SUVs come in several sizes and configurations. Models with a shorter bed, abbreviated cargo area or smaller cab are lighter and generally use less fuel.
- Maintain steady speeds. Extra fuel is necessary to accelerate a vehicle.
 - Cruise Control may be a fuel saving option. Use it when driving on open roads to maintain a steady speed.
- Plan trips and errands to reduce total driving time and miles driven. Ask yourself whether a trip is really necessary. Can it be avoided by using the phone, fax or Internet?
- Use the most energy-conserving vehicle available as much as possible.
 - Smaller engines typically mean better gas mileage.
 - Four-wheel drive vehicles may use more gas than other vehicles.
 - Vehicles with automatic transmissions may use more fuel than those with manual transmissions.
- Minimize the need to brake by anticipating traffic conditions. Be alert for slow downs and red lights.
- Shopping around for the best fuel price in an area may save some money but it is not practical to travel long distances to save a few pennies per gallon.
 - Use State pumps at VTS or MSP Posts for fueling.