

## Using Your Car Efficiently

*Much has been said about North Americans and their love affair with the car. A symbol of freedom and opportunity, the automobile has become a part of our daily lives. Though the abundance of personal vehicles speaks highly about the merits of living in Canada, it also explains why our country is the world leader per capita in greenhouse gas emissions – the main cause of global climate change.*

As individuals, we produce 25% of the greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. Of this, almost 50% is from our motorized vehicle use! Greenhouse gas emissions, including vehicle emissions are causing the earth's average temperature to increase, which in turn creates unpredictable and unseasonal weather marked by severe weather events.

These same vehicle emissions are also responsible for an increase in air pollution, most notably, smog. Each year approximately 2,000 premature deaths in Ontario can be attributed to air pollution (Ontario Medical Association).

Changes to our climate and air quality can affect our economy, health and environment. Therefore it is important for us to use our automobiles wisely.



### To Drive or Not to Drive...

Getting rid of the household car is not an option for most of us, but anyone can reduce their vehicle use. A few hints:

#### **EVERYONE INTO THE POOL!**

Carpool that is! When possible, four people going to the same place should not drive four cars! Sharing rides with friends, neighbours and co-workers not only helps to improve air quality, it's enjoyable as well.

#### **GET YOUR BODY MOVING!**

Peterborough is an attractive city, lush with green trees and scattered generously with parkland. Take in some of our local landscape by walking, roller-blading or cycling to work or school. You just might find that it adds an extra jump to your day by improving your energy and fitness levels!

#### **ALL TOGETHER NOW!**

By combining errands, you save time, money and reduce engine wear. Go on errands when you know there will be less traffic: that way you will reduce the fuel you are wasting when sitting in traffic congestion!

#### **BUS RIDER!**

Peterborough has an extensive, affordable public transit system, with transfers that allow you to change from route to route. Why not catch up on the news or the latest best-seller and let someone else worry about the driving. Visit: [www.kawartha.com/peterboroughtransit](http://www.kawartha.com/peterboroughtransit) or call (705) 745-0525



(705) 745-3238  
[www.greenup.on.ca](http://www.greenup.on.ca)

## On the Road Again...

So your destination requires that you take a car. Here are a few helpful tips to make your driving more efficient. They'll save you money, reduce engine wear and tear, and minimize vehicle exhaust.

### YOU ARE NO JACQUES VILLENEUVE!

He might be able to afford the gas, but do you want to? Keeping your speed under control helps with fuel efficiency. Driving 90 km/hr burns 10 per cent less fuel than driving the same distance at 100 km/hr.

### SMOOTH OPERATOR

Starting and stopping quickly is hard on both your vehicle and the environment. Extra acceleration burns extra fuel. Keep your eye on the flow of traffic and adjust your speed accordingly.

### COOL AS A CUCUMBER!

Air conditioning consumes gasoline. While driving in the city, opening your windows may provide ample breeze to cool you off. On highways, avoid using your windows or sunroof. The extra wind resistance and drag from these openings causes the engine to work harder. Try using your flow through ventilation system instead.

### IDLY STANDING BY...

Why not give your car a break today? Shutting off your engine and starting it up again consumes less gasoline than 10 seconds of idling and believe it or not is far less taxing on your engine! Ask your mechanic! In winter try warming your vehicle for 30 seconds rather than five minutes. Vehicles today are designed to handle short warm-up periods. Or why not try a device designed to keep your coolants and oil warm. A block heater, timed to turn on an hour before departure, will allow you to leave the house with no warm-up whatsoever. Studies have shown that a block heater can improved your fuel economy by as much as 10% (Natural Resources Canada).

For more information on local transportation programs and resources contact Peterborough Green-Up at 745-3238 or visit:

[www.peterboroughmoves.com](http://www.peterboroughmoves.com)

## Maintaining Your Cool!

Car maintenance is one of the most important things you can do to help reduce the amount of emissions produced by your vehicle. A few reminders on how to drive a greener car:

### UNDER PRESSURE!

Check your tire pressure at least once a month, when the tires are cold. Under-inflated tires can increase fuel consumption by 3-5%, and are a safety risk too!

### CHANGING TIMES

Remember to change your oil and filters regularly. Oil breaks down over time, creating an inefficient, fuel-wasting vehicle. Clogged filters also disrupt the engine's natural flow.

### TUNING UP

Follow a regular schedule of tune-ups. Keeping your car healthy not only saves you money, but it also reduces emissions. A poorly tuned vehicle can burn up to twice as much fuel as a well maintained one.



### Take the One-Tonne Challenge!

Peterborough Green-Up joins the Government of Canada in encouraging Peterborough citizens to reduce their personal greenhouse gas contribution! This sounds bigger than it is! Remember, the average Canadian produces 5 tonnes of greenhouse gases per year - 50% of this is from transportation! Let's walk, bike and bus our way to a healthier climate! Learn more at:

[www.climatechange.gc.ca](http://www.climatechange.gc.ca) 



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