

## **How to Reduce Your Gasoline Usage (Saving Money and Fuel!)**

Reducing your gas usage is an easier task than you think. There are numerous ways to reduce gas consumption that any average driver can do. By following some of these simple tips you can be on your way to saving money and decreasing your carbon footprint.

If you are lucky enough to live near work or school, riding your bike is a green and economical alternative to driving. It is also a good way to get in some exercise! Another choice is car pooling. Getting together with friends for a ridesharing program is a fun way to go green. You also can consolidate your shopping and do everything in one trip to save time and gasoline. Also, instead of going on a Sunday drive try going for a walk or a jog. New York state has many, many parks. Finding one close to home will provide a lot of free entertainment without having to use gasoline to go to your favorite spot further away.

In addition to changing your driving habits, there are some quick and easy car maintenance tips that can reduce costs as well. According to [www.stretcher.com](http://www.stretcher.com), underinflated tires can increase fuel consumption by 2 percent per pound. If your tires are five pounds low you are losing 10 percent of your fuel economy! And a blocked air filter can increase gas usage by 10 percent. And, because a lighter car will get better mileage per gallon of gasoline, taking excess weight out of the trunk will help you save money and go green. Finally, while driving, doing the speed limit will help your car get more for your money. Driving 50-55 miles per hour is the most efficient speed for most cars. Also, a quicker take off burns more gas, so slowing down and being more gentle on the gas pedal will help reduce costs and stretch each gallon of gas so you get the most for your dollar.

Every little bit helps, and following a few easy tips you can save money and be more Earth-friendly. Start now and save for the future!

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