



## Thrifty Driving

Would you like to save 20¢ to 40¢ per gallon on gas? While we can't change the price of gas, we can save on the amount we use. Saving gas is also good for the environment. Raising your miles per gallon (MPG) lowers the price you pay for gas.

- Check your tire pressure monthly. Driving on under-inflated tires burns more gas. Tires lose pressure over time and when the temperature drops. Experts estimate that 75% of us drive with under-inflated tires.
- Clean out the trunk, and remove the extra items you carry around, including tool boxes when not in use. Weight causes drag, which uses more fuel to move around. You lose 2% mpg for every 100 pounds you carry around.
- Wind resistance outside causes drag, too. Remove luggage racks and roof-top carriers when not in use. Need to take something with you? Try to fit it inside the vehicle whenever possible.
- Avoid idling. Sitting still with your engine running gets you zero mpg. Newer cars are designed to start with little fuel, so turn your car off for non-traffic stops of 2 minutes or more.
- Newer cars and trucks don't need a warm up period before driving. In fact, your engine reaches the best driving temperature faster by driving rather than idling. Bring along a blanket for while the engine warms up, get in and go.
- Easy does it. Jack-rabbit starts burn fuel, so accelerate gently, especially at stop lights. Try to anticipate traffic ahead of you. Braking and accelerating takes more fuel than driving at steady speeds.
- Keep the inside of your car cool when parked. It can heat up to over 100 degrees on a sunny day, and you'll be tempted to run the A/C at full blast to get comfortable. Crack the windows, park out of the sun; use a solar shade in the window.
- Using you're A/C uses about a gallon per tank of gas to cool your car, reducing your mileage by about 20%. When driving at speeds lower than 40 miles per hour, opening windows uses less fuel. Over 40 mph, though, A/C is a better option, because open windows use more fuel. Always use the "recycle inside air" feature when the A/C is on. It re-circulates air that is already cold, rather than cooling hot air from outside.
- Keep your car tuned. Basic things like using the right oil for your car, getting tune-ups, replacing your air filter regularly all make a difference in how much gas your engine burns. Check engine light comes on? Obey the light.
- Fill your tank when it is cool. When it is cool gas is denser, so you get more usable gas. When it is hot, gas escapes as vapor, so you are paying for it to evaporate into the air. Always tighten your gas cap, too. You can lose as much as 30 gallons a year through a loose gas cap!
- Slow down. Observing the speed limit improves gas mileage by over 20%. Driving faster will not shorten your trip by much, either.
- Plan trips ahead of time. Think of all the places you need to go, and route them out for efficiency.
- Car pool, take public transportation, walk and bike whenever possible.

### Call Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission for more energy saving tips:

Boone County  
Neighborhood Center  
7938 Tanner's Gate  
Florence 41042  
Phone: 859/586-9250

Grant County  
Neighborhood Center  
134 North Main Street  
Williamstown 41097  
Phone: 859/824-4768

Campbell County  
Neighborhood Center  
437 West 9th Street  
Newport 41071  
Phone: 859/431-4177

Kenton County  
Neighborhood Center  
315 E. 15th Street  
Covington 41011  
Phone: 859/291-8607

Carroll County  
Neighborhood Center  
1302 Highland Ave  
Carrollton 41008  
Phone: 502/732-5253

Owen County  
Neighborhood Center  
109 South Madison  
Owenton 40359  
Phone: 502/484-2116

Gallatin County  
Neighborhood Center  
432 W. Main Street  
Warsaw 41095  
Phone: 859/567-4660

Pendleton County  
Neighborhood Center  
311 Park Street  
Falmouth 41040  
Phone: 859/654-4054

[www.nkcac.org](http://www.nkcac.org)



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