

Automobile Pollution

Many more people own vehicles today than they did ten years ago. This has resulted in a tremendous increase in the use of petrol, diesel and compressed natural gas (CNG). Automobile exhausts emit particulate matter, unburnt hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxides having adverse health impact among the exposed population. This is one of the major causes of air pollution and increasing carbon footprint - which leads to an intensified greenhouse effect.



Fig: Car pool - An economical way of travelling

Tips to Reduce Automobile Pollution by Proper Driving and Maintenance

- Do not accelerate or brake too hard and suddenly - can actually reduce your fuel economy. Minimise the use of brake and clutch.
- Improve your mileage up to 5% by avoiding quick starts and stops. Anticipate traffic conditions and drive gently.
- Use overdrive gears and cruise control when appropriate. They improve highway fuel economy.
- Avoid unnecessary idling. It wastes fuel, costs you money and pollutes the air. Turn off the engine if you anticipate a wait.
- Rush hour driving - If the traffic would not be moving for a while, switch off the engine.
- Frequently check and maintain the correct air pressure for the tyres. Properly inflated and aligned tires increase the mileage up to 3%. Under-inflated tires increases fuel consumption up to 3% to 7% and lead to increased pollution and higher greenhouse gas emissions. Increases tire

wear.

- Avoid the luxury of car air conditioning - increases fuel consumption by about 10%. Instead, wind down windows and promote natural air circulation.
- Change the engine oil according to the schedule of your owner's manual and use the manufacturer's recommended grade.
- Clean/replace air filters periodically. Clogged filters reduce mileage up to 10%.
- Prevent leakage of fuel at all costs.
- Keep the engine well-tuned. This will help in increasing the mileage by an average of 4%.
- Do not pack items on top of your car unless you have to. The wind resistance of a loaded roof rack can reduce fuel economy by 5%.
- Remove items from your car's trunk. An extra 50kg in the trunk can reduce fuel economy by up to 2%.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES





Fig: Electric Car

YOU CAN HELP!

- 🌿 Public transportation is a convenient and cost-effective way of reducing carbon footprint.
- 🌿 Use car pool instead of individual cars to travel to work. People who live



nearby to each other and are colleagues at the same workplace could carpool - travel to and from work in the same vehicle.

-  Walk to nearby spots. It would not take much more time or energy to walk the distance instead. Leave your car at home and consider walking, bicycling, or public transportation whenever you can.
-  If you want to go by car, combine errands. Several short trips can use twice as much fuel as one trip covering the same distance.