



## **NRMA's Top Tips for reducing emissions and petrol use**

1. Avoid hard acceleration and braking – “flow” with the traffic. Try and smooth out speed variations in traffic ahead of you and read traffic lights and lane congestion as far away as possible to anticipate traffic movements. If other vehicles cut in ahead of you, don't worry – you'll only be a few car lengths behind at the end of your journey. Comparative tests in the same vehicle using “aggressive” compared with “smooth” drivers showed differences in fuel consumption of up to 30%.
2. You don't have to travel at the motorway speed limit. Travelling at 90 km/h rather than 110 km/h can reduce fuel consumption by 10% or more. If you do travel less than the speed limit, keep to the left hand lane as much as possible – it's a legal requirement to do so unless you're overtaking and it's courteous to other drivers.
3. In urban areas when the weather is fine, switch-off the airconditioning and open the windows - this reduces fuel consumption by up to 10%. At higher speeds, open windows can create as much drag as airconditioning so there's little advantage in turning airconditioning off.
4. For that short trip to the shops when the weather's fine, try walking – besides reducing fuel consumption and emissions, there are well documented health benefits from walking regularly. If it's too far to walk and you have several places to go to, try and plan to visit them all in the one trip.
5. Don't keep heavy gear like golf clubs, scuba equipment or tool sets in your vehicle if you're not using them. The extra weight increases fuel consumption by up to three per cent, particularly in urban areas where you're often accelerating and braking.
6. Take off roof-racks and bullbars if they're not required – they increase aerodynamic drag and weight, which, depending on the type of driving you do, increase fuel consumption by up to five per cent.

7. Check your tyre pressures regularly and keep the pressure towards the top of the manufacturer's recommend range. This will reduce rolling resistance and fuel consumption by up to two per cent and maximise tyre life.
8. Have your car serviced regularly. Older (generally pre-1986) cars can go out of tune between services which can increase fuel consumption, and even on newer vehicles with electronic engine management, neglecting simple things like replacing a dirty air-filter can increase fuel consumption by up to five per cent .
9. When refilling with petrol, fill only to the first "click off" of the pump and ensure that the fuel tank cap is replaced securely. More recent vehicles have a ratchet mechanism which freewheels when the cap is tight enough.
10. When stuck for any length of time in traffic - peak hour, Christmas/holiday queues - switch off the engine. Turn the key to the "accessory" position, (not completely to "off") and shift the automatic transmission to "park" or "neutral". This way, when the traffic starts moving again, the engine starts straight away. Vehicles fitted with this feature as standard, typically reduce fuel consumption in urban areas by up to 15%.
11. If driving a manual vehicle, learn to "synchronise" downchanges by revving the engine gently with the clutch disengaged before the lower gear is engaged – you'll drive more smoothly, reduce fuel consumption by a small amount and be much kinder to your vehicle's clutch and gearbox.
12. Don't rest your left foot on the brake of an automatic vehicle. The extra drag increases fuel consumption by perhaps five per cent, causes more rapid brake wear and confuses the driver behind who can't tell when you're really braking.