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Drive Lightly and Reduce
Your Fleet's Carbon Footprint

Driver's Guide



Small changes can make a big difference

There are immediate actions that every driver can take to reduce their carbon footprint, whilst also saving in fuel costs. Custom Fleet can recommend techniques that will help you drive more efficiently. Our Drive Lightly program has reporting that can assist with measuring these improvements.

Changing specific driving habits like speeding, rapid acceleration and excessive idle time can add up to significant CO₂ emissions savings per vehicle.

In this guide to environmentally efficient driving you will find practical steps that you can take today to reduce your vehicle carbon emissions. You will also gain insight into alternative fuels and vehicle technology.

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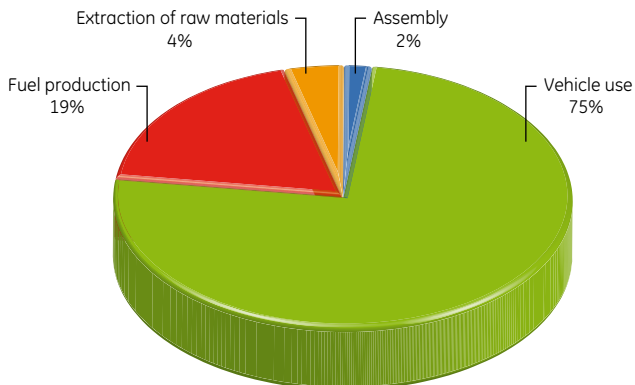
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What is Driving Lightly?

As the graph below illustrates, fuel consumption from vehicle use generates 75% of a vehicle's CO2 emissions over its lifecycle. Driving Lightly is about using your vehicle in an environmentally efficient way that suits you and your vehicle. It is a way of driving that reduces fuel consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, accident rates and noise levels – therefore having a positive impact on you as a driver, the life of your vehicle and the quality of the environment.

Being aware of non-productive activities that increase fuel consumption such as idling, excessive acceleration, hard braking and using inefficient routes will enable you to adjust your driving behaviours to lower fuel consumption and thereby lower emissions.

CO2 Emissions from a typical vehicle, over the lifecycle



Source: World Resources Institute

The benefits of environmentally efficient driving

Environmental

- Reduce use and demand for non-renewable fuels
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Help improve overall air quality
- Reduce ambient noise levels

Benefits to your vehicle

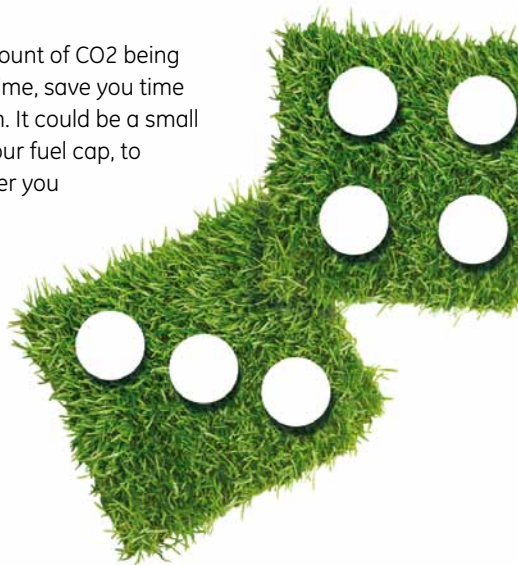
- Increases the life of the engine and drive train components
- Reduces the need to change tyres and brake pads as frequently

Benefits to you and your company

- Contributes to preserving the environment
- Reduces running costs and fuel consumption and lowers spend on vehicle maintenance
- Increases safety

What can you do?

There are several ways to help to reduce the amount of CO₂ being pumped into the atmosphere and, at the same time, save you time and money through decreased fuel consumption. It could be a small change, such as making sure you fully tighten your fuel cap, to a big change, like better route planning. Whatever you change, it will make a difference.



Fuel-efficient driving means lower costs

There are many small changes that you can make to your everyday driving that will reduce the environmental impact. These changes can also lead to significant cost savings to a company's fleet in a time of volatile fuel prices.

Refueling

- **Make sure you fully tighten your fuel cap**

Fuel can be lost due to evaporation when the fuel cap is not fully tightened. In addition to the unnecessary expense, this pollutes the atmosphere with unburned hydrocarbons. Don't be caught with a loose or missing fuel cap.

- **Do not overfill your tank**

Overfilling your tank can cause you to spill fuel causing unnecessary fuel wastage.

Before leaving

- **Plan your trip**

Try to plan your trip so you complete as many jobs in one trip as possible. Completing three jobs in one journey is much more economical than making three consecutive trips.

- **Avoid areas of serious congestion and driving in peak hour traffic**

Check traffic and travel news before you leave as it may be advisable to avoid certain routes. This will not only save you time and stress, but it will also reduce your emissions.



Your vehicle

Vehicle preparation

- **Reduce aerodynamic drag**
Roof racks and similar items attached to the outside of your vehicle can increase drag. Make sure these are always removed when not in use as the resistance increases fuel consumption.
- **Get rid of excess weight**
Clutter in the boot and back seat is extra weight your engine must carry around. You can reduce the load on the engine, therefore saving fuel, by removing all excess weight from your vehicle. Remove things such as unnecessary tools, parts, golf clubs, etc will help to cut your CO2 emissions.

If you do have to carry weighty objects inside your vehicle, make sure they are positioned as close to the floor as possible to lower the vehicle's centre of gravity. Also ensure that you spread the weight across the whole vehicle so all four tyres have the same contact with the road, reducing rolling resistance.

Vehicle maintenance

A well-maintained vehicle is key to reducing emissions. Regular maintenance and vehicle checks have a positive effect on fuel consumption. Being proactive with vehicle servicing and maintenance can not only reduce fuel consumption and maintenance, but also avoid vehicle breakdown. We also recommend that you give your vehicle a basic weekly check.





- **Tyre pressure**

Ensure all tyres (including the spare) are inflated to the correct pressure. Under inflated tyres have more rolling resistance; therefore your engine uses more fuel to overcome this increased friction. You should check tyre pressures regularly in accordance with manufacturer guidelines, especially prior to leaving on a long trip. Properly inflated tyres are safer and last longer than over or under inflated tyres.

- **Change your air filter regularly**

Be sure your air filter is checked regularly and replaced when needed. This can have a significant impact on fuel economy.

- **Use your cruise control on the highway**

Using cruise control on the highway allows you to maintain a more constant speed than you could without it, and, in most cases saves fuel.

- **Keep your engine clean**

You should always follow and carry out the recommended maintenance checks as per the schedule laid out in the manufacturer's handbook. You should maintain appropriate levels of oil, transmission fluid and coolant levels to ensure the engine is clean and running efficiently.



Vehicle and fuel choice

Vehicle choice

- **The engine**

Once you decide on the type of motor vehicle you want, check out all the different makes, models and engine options. Vehicle manufacturers should be able to provide you with information around the vehicle ranges and their efficiency and environmental rating. Seek advice about the environmental credentials of the vehicle you are considering.

- **The colour**

In some cases, you will have input into the colour of your motor vehicle. Colour choice can make a difference to your fuel consumption and emissions through the unnecessary use of your vehicle's air conditioner. Light colours reflect sunlight and will assist in keeping the interior of your motor vehicle cooler. Dark colours will do the opposite and retain heat.

Fuel choice

Petrol vs diesel?

Today there is no single fuel choice on the market that will cut emissions and increase Kilometres Per Litre (KPL). This means you must assess your personal needs and choose a fuel that is best for you and the environment. As a general rule of thumb, if most of the driving you do is long distance or highway driving then you should consider a diesel engine as these are more economical over longer distances. Alternatively a petrol engine may be better suited to your needs if you tend to drive shorter distances.



Alternative fuels

- **Hybrids**

Hybrid vehicles use two separate motors to power the vehicle. They also generally incorporate several other energy conserving features:

- The ability to recapture energy normally wasted during braking
- A significant level of battery storage space and the ability to recapture and reuse energy
- The ability to shut down the petrol or diesel engine during traffic stops and while idling

Hybrid powered cars are particularly efficient for inner city driving, where frequent stops and idling are the norm. Hybrids can also help reduce noise emissions.

- **Biofuels**

Biofuels are traditional fossil fuels blended with a percentage of fuel from renewable sources, ie. Ethanol. Some types of biofuels produce lower emissions on a total lifecycle basis than fossil fuels.

- **Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)**

There is a limited selection of LPG vehicles available in the market. Your KPL may be lowered by up to 30% but the price per litre is generally cheaper than petrol and diesel.

- **Electric**

Electric vehicles produce less CO₂ and other pollutants, including noise, than both petrol and diesel engines. These vehicles are not readily available in Australia at this time but we should see a steady increase in models available and infrastructure in the coming years.

Your driving style

Studies have shown there is a significant correlation between driving behaviours, emissions and fuel economy. By following the rules of environmentally efficient driving you will not only drive in a way that benefits the environment and reduces vehicle operating costs, but it will also be safer for both yourself and other road users.

Slow down for safety

Speed limits are the maximum lawful speeds that may be driven under ideal circumstances. Not only is driving above the speed limit uneconomical and illegal, but it is also dangerous. It is estimated that between a third and half of all road deaths are due to speeding.

The risk of causing death or injury in an urban 60km/h speed zone doubles for every 5km/h you drive over the speed limit.

Speed (km/h)	Risk relative to 60 km/h
65	2 times
70	4 times
75	11 times
80	32 times

Source: NSW Roads & Traffic Authority Website



Limit idling

Not many people are aware of the fact that modern vehicle technology improvements have eliminated the need to warm up vehicle engines before use. Do not leave your engine running when stationary for long periods.

Use the air conditioner sparingly

Air conditioning is now standard on virtually all new motor vehicles and trucks. Having your air conditioner on can increase fuel consumption by more than 10% in city driving just by the power required to run the system and the extra acceleration required.

It is important that the air conditioning system is checked when the vehicle is in for service as a leaky air conditioning unit will not only be less efficient but can also release harmful gasses into the atmosphere. It is recommended that the air conditioner be used regularly throughout the year for short periods to ensure it continues to operate properly.

Rolling down your vehicle windows can be a fuel saving alternative at low speeds. However, at high speeds, the air conditioner should be used instead of leaving the windows open, as this will reduce drag on the car and increase your fuel economy.

Avoid stopping and starting

Every time you stop and start again in traffic, the engine uses more fuel and therefore produces more CO₂. Keep your eye on the traffic and lights ahead. Slow down early to give traffic ahead a chance to get moving again by the time you reach it.

Drive calmly

Rapid acceleration and braking can use additional fuel, especially at highway speeds. It also increases the wear and tear on the vehicle and is dangerous, especially in urban areas.



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- TRAC Leases
- Novated Leasing
- Fleet Management
- Fleet Card

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Call us today or visit our website to see how our solutions can help your business grow.

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Disclaimer

This is only a guide and not advice. There are multiple factors which determine the effectiveness of any carbon management program. We do not guarantee or represent that your participation in Drive Lightly program will result in the use of your fleet being carbon neutral or achieve any other particular outcome concerning the environmental impact of carbon emissions. We rely on the information you provide to us concerning your fleet and vehicle and fuel usage data.

