

If you must drive, you can still help reduce air pollution. You can do this by driving less, and by driving smart. Fewer trips in your car or truck will help cut air pollution. Each gallon of gas that is burned by a car or truck produces 28 pounds of carbon dioxide. In addition, how you drive can reduce your car's greenhouse gas contribution. Here are some tips to drive more efficiently in terms of fuel consumption:

- § Plan ahead and consolidate your errands into one trip. Avoid congested roadways.
- § Avoid idling or revving your engine for more than 30 seconds. You don't need to warm up your engine before driving
- § Accelerate gradually – don't "put the pedal to the metal" as doing this needlessly burns up to 50% more gas.
- § Maintain the speed limit and use cruise control on the highway
- § Keep your car tuned, change the oil regularly and keep your tires properly inflated. Regular maintenance will improve gas mileage and reduce your car's emissions.
- § Don't top off at the gas pump as this releases fumes into the air.

If you are thinking of purchasing a new car look for the most fuel efficient, lowest polluting car, or even a hybrid. There are numerous resources available to help you choose a fuel-efficient car. One source to check out is www.greenercars.com. The California Air Resources Board also has posted a Cleaner Car Buyers Guide on their website www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ccbg/ccbg.htm. According to the Sierra Club's report on global warming, driving a sport utility vehicle that gets 13 miles per gallon of gas instead of an average midsize car for a year would waste more energy than if you left your color TV continuously on for 28 years. Clearly driving a Sports Utility Vehicle is not a planet friendly choice. If you are concerned as to the environmental impact of your current vehicle check out the Environmental Defense Funds Tailpipe Tally site to calculate your vehicles greenhouse emissions at http://www.environmentaldefense.org/tool_launch.cfm?tool=tailpipe

The way we move about the world is as important as the things that we do. Small changes to personal habits, a little physical exertion and perhaps some cooperation between people can produce something as beautiful as a clearer, bluer sky.

The energy and output of humans is not limited to their cars but extends to every part of their and our lives, thus the time has come to go solar. For decades we have been waiting for technological advances in solar electric systems industry to make solar power affordable, practical and available for individual use. Now the capacity to harvest sunlight to generate power is finally accessible on a practical level for everyday citizens like you and I.

Some recent advances include the development of smaller more compact photovoltaic cells. Units are now more modular and small enough to fit unobtrusively on top of practically any rooftop. Houses, apartment buildings, businesses all over the Bay Area have potential surface areas to produce large amounts of cheap, reliable and clean energy.