



UUCU Environmental Action Pledge – April/May 2008 Reduce Transportation Energy Waste

Easy Personal Actions — Change Your Driving Habits

- **Avoid braking**
 - Any energy of motion lost by braking needs to be made up again. Up to 20% saving.
- **Accelerate Gradually**
 - Don't put the "pedal to the metal" as this needlessly burns up to 50% more gas
- **Stay within speed limits**
 - Reducing your vehicle speed from 80 to 50 mph can reduce consumption from 20-70%
 - Use cruise control on highways
- **Avoid idling the engine**
 - Up to 3% of our fuel is wasted idling engines unnecessarily
- **Keep tires inflated**
 - Under-inflated tires increase rolling friction and can increase consumption by 2%
- **Keep your engine tuned and change the oil regularly**
- **Don't top off at the gas pump as this releases fumes into the air**
- **Lighten your car, remove roof racks when not needed**
- **Walk or bike for shorter shopping trips**
 - Think of the trip as an exercise workout and meet your neighbors
- **Plan shopping/errands to minimize number of trips**
- **Park car in central place and walk from store to store (e.g. with a portable wheeled cart)**

For more info, visit:

<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.shtml>

Longer Term Actions

- **When it's time to replace your vehicle, substitute a higher mileage vehicle**

Community or Social Actions

- **Car-pool or van-pool to common destinations**
- **Use public transportation if possible**
- **Advocate for car-sharing programs such as [Flexcar](#)**
- **Visit <http://www.flexcar.com/>**