

Follow these travel tips to save time and money

Saving fuel can be as easy as taking a few moments to plan and assess your travel needs for the day. Following these travel management tips can help you save time as well as money.

- Do you really need to take the car?—For short trips of two to five kilometres, consider walking or biking if possible. Your health, wallet and the environment will all benefit from this choice. Also, use public transportation whenever possible. One bus load of passengers is equivalent to taking 40 cars off the road.

- Plan your route—For long distances, plan your route using maps and choose the one with the fewest number of stops. Use four-lane rather than two-lane highways and bypass major cities to avoid intersections and extra stops which can increase fuel consumption. For shorter trips, choose routes that allow you to drive at a steady speed rather than one with many stoplights. Always listen to the radio for traffic reports which allow you to change your route should yours have an accident or slow-down up ahead.

- Combine trips—This is where planning ahead can really pay off. A cold engine uses more fuel than a warm one so trips of five kilome-

tres or less can be hard on your engine and wallet, even more so in cold weather, as your vehicle doesn't get the chance to reach its peak operating temperature. Plan to do all your errands, groceries and kid pick-ups on the same trip.

- Track fuel consumption—Monitor your vehicle's performance and try to decrease your fuel consumption. To help, Natural Resources Canada developed Track Your Fuel Consumption, an online tool to help you calculate and compare your fuel consumption with manufacturer's base ratings and that of other drives with the same vehicles. Visit www.nrcan.gc.ca to get started.

- Choose your vehicle wisely—When the time comes to buy a new or used vehicle, be sure to consult the Natural Resources Canada Fuel Consumption Guide which lists passenger vehicles by make and model and provides fuel consumption details. Always try to buy the most fuel-efficient vehicle for your particular needs.

There are more driving tips on the Natural Resources Canada website at www.nrcan.gc.ca.

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