

The average driver spends £1500 a year on fuel. **Following these simple tips could save you up to £400 a year!**

| How you waste money | Fuel consumption penalty | What it could cost you extra each year* | What you can do to cut your fuel costs |
|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| Typical driving style | 15% | £172 | Follow the ten smarter driving tips in this leaflet. |
| Very aggressive /fast driving | 40% or more | £458 | Take it easy and slow down. It's safer and less stressful. |
| Roof bars (unloaded) | 10 – 15% | £138 | Remove roof bars when you're not using them. |
| Loaded roof rack/ bike rack | Up to 30% | £344 | Use an aerodynamic roof box if you can (remove it when you don't need it). Consider a rear mounted bike rack or better still, put bikes in your car if they'll fit. |
| Under-inflated tyres | 3 – 4% | £46 | Keep your tyres properly inflated. Check your tyres at least once a month (do this before you've driven anywhere, when the tyres are still cold) |
| Air conditioning | Up to 20% | £229 | Use air conditioning as little as possible. At slower speeds, open the windows instead, and use air vents at high speeds. |
| Extra weight | 6% per 100kg | £69 | Take everything out of your car that doesn't need to be there, especially any heavy items |
| Powerful stereo/ Hi-fi & other gadgets | 10% or more | £115 | Don't use gadgets just because they are there and don't play music louder than you need to. |
| Poorly maintained car | Up to 50% | £573 | Service your car regularly. Many faults can be fixed by a simple engine tune. Even just replacing a clogged air filter can increase your mileage per litre by 10%. |

*based on an average sized car driven 9,000 miles per year

Other ways of using a car?

Many people save money by not owning a car, getting rid of a second car or by sharing a car.

Join a car club

Brighton & Hove's car clubs let you use a car when you need one without having to own a car. Car club members pay an annual membership fee and an hourly fee for use of the cars which covers all costs except fuel – i.e. road tax, MOT, insurance, VAT, maintenance and valeting.

Car club cars are located in reserved parking bays around the city. The car clubs can be contacted by:

CityCarClub www.citycarclub.co.uk 0845 330 1234

Streetcar www.streetcar.co.uk 0845 644 8476

WhizzGo www.whizzgo.co.uk 0870 446 6000

Car sharing

Sharing a trip with a friend, neighbour or colleague can be an easy way of cutting the stress and the cost of your travel.

If you don't know anyone who is making a similar journey to yours, you could find a car share partner through one of these free car sharing schemes:

www.brighton.gumtree.com

www.nationalcarshare.co.uk

www.liftshare.com

How to get the best value from your car

Reading this could save you up to **£400** a year!



Your driving options

Are you wasting money on your car?

We all know that cars are expensive to run, but did you know that there are a number of easy ways that you can cut the cost of your motoring no matter what type of vehicle you drive.

10 Smarter driving tips

- 1 **Shift up as soon as possible.** Drive smoothly and economically by avoiding high engine revs. For petrol/ LPG cars, change up a gear before 2500 RPM, for diesel cars before 2000 RPM. Depress the accelerator gently to drive away and change to a higher gear as soon as you can. Be prepared to skip gears to suit your speed and the terrain.
- 2 **Maintain a steady speed when you can, using the highest gear possible.** Don't speed up just to slow down. Instead, go lightly on the accelerator and coast where possible.
- 3 **Anticipate traffic flow.** Look ahead and keep sufficient distance from the vehicle in front to avoid sudden braking. Don't approach traffic lights at speed. If it is clear that you will have to stop, slow down gently and allow the vehicle to coast if possible.
- 4 **Drive smoothly.** Abrupt starts and stops waste fuel. Accelerate smoothly and brake gently – heavy braking and pulling away too fast uses 60% more fuel. When you have to slow down or stop, decelerate smoothly by releasing the accelerator in plenty of time.
- 5 **Don't drive aggressively.** Driving aggressively causes more pollution, increases your risk of having an accident and will cost more in fuel. Give yourself extra time to get to your destination and think 'steady and smooth' as you drive.

- 6 **Don't over-rev the engine** when starting your vehicle. You don't need to press the accelerator hard.
- 7 **Pump up.** Under inflated tyres create more resistance when your car is moving, which means the engine has to work harder, so more fuel is used.
- 8 **Switch off the engine if you're stuck in a traffic jam,** at a level crossing or parked at the side of the road. Sitting with the engine running burns fuel and wastes money. Only switch off when it is safe to do so and don't coast with the engine switched off – most cars need the engine running for the brakes to work properly.
- 9 **Slow down.** Driving at higher speeds significantly increases fuel consumption and pollution, and increases your risk of having an accident. On faster roads, travelling at 50mph can use 25% less fuel than 70mph, and driving at 90mph can use 60% more fuel than travelling at 70mph. You often gain little time when overtaking, but use up lots of fuel doing so.
- 10 **Use cruise control on motorways and dual carriageways.** If your car has it – but don't use it on hills.

Drive less

One of the best ways of saving money is to use your car less. Before you use your car, ask yourself:

- ▶ Do I really need to make this journey?
- ▶ Could I combine several short trips, or share a car?

If every car in Brighton & Hove was driven five miles less per week, it would remove 26 million miles of traffic from the roads every year. Could you cut your mileage by 5 miles each week?

Plan your journey in advance with the help of www.journeyon.co.uk The website is part of the city council's transport campaign to encourage people to get fit, save money and help the environment by leaving their cars at home for short journeys. Our website plots your

journey to work, school or the shops and lets you know how many calories you'd burn and how much money you'd save if you walked, cycled or took the bus instead of driving.

30 minutes of moderate activity 5 days per week is enough to cut the risk of heart disease and diabetes, and reduce levels of blood pressure and stress. An easy way to do this, without having to find extra time to exercise, or extra money for the gym, is to replace short car journeys with walking or cycling.

45% of workers in Brighton & Hove who use a car to get to work drive less than 3 miles. This accounts for over 27,000 cars per day. 3 miles could be cycled in as little as 15 minutes. **For information on how to make cycling work for you contact transport planning on 01273 292929 or email travel.planning@brighton-hove.gov.uk**

Buying a car

Buying a new car is an expensive purchase, to help keep running costs to a minimum, you should think about:

- ▶ **Your lifestyle.** What size and type of vehicle do you really need? A smaller, more fuel-efficient model can save money on fuel bills, tax and insurance, and reduce emissions. Try to buy a car with a 1.4 litre engine or less.
- ▶ **Fuel economy.** Websites such as www.eta.co.uk or www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk give the fuel consumption figures for new cars. Parkers Guide or similar magazines also give fuel information for new cars.
- ▶ **The age of the car.** Cars older than J Reg do not have catalytic converters and can pollute more than 10 times as much as a new car.
- ▶ **When buying a new car, look for the efficiency label.** Use this to help you buy a more efficient car – if you can't see the label, ask the dealer for help.