

Eco-Driving Recommendations

This is not meant to be an exhaustive list, but a set of guidelines. The list below is from the Automobile Association (a British equivalent of AAA) below.¹ If you have questions or ideas to add to this list, please contact the Office of Sustainability at sustainability@ursinus.edu.

- **“Easy does it:** drive smoothly, accelerate gently and read the road ahead to avoid unnecessary braking.
- **Decelerate smoothly:** when you have to slow down or stop, decelerate smoothly by releasing the accelerator, leaving the car in gear (or put into neutral if driving a stick shift vehicle).
- **Rolling:** in traffic, if you can keep the car moving all the time, so much the better; stopping then starting again uses more fuel than rolling. You should always obey stop signs.
- **Cut down on the A/C:** air-conditioning increases fuel consumption at low speeds, but at higher speeds the effects are less noticeable. So if it's a hot day open the windows around town and save the air conditioning for high speed driving. Don't leave air-conditioning on all the time but aim to run it at least once a week throughout the year to maintain the system in good condition.
- **Turn it off:** electrical loads increase fuel consumption, so turn off your heated rear windscreen, demister blowers and headlights, when you don't need them
- **Stick to speed limits:** the faster you go the greater the fuel consumption and pollution. Driving at 70mph uses up to 9% more fuel than at 60mph and up to 15% more than at 50mph. Cruising at 80mph can use up to 25% more fuel than at 70mph.
- **Don't be idle:** if you do get caught in a queue, avoid wasting fuel – turn the engine off if it looks like you could be waiting for more than three minutes.
- **Don't get lost:** plan unfamiliar journeys to reduce the risk of getting lost and check the traffic news before you leave
- **Don't top off the tank:** Don't “top off” your gas tank. Stop at the click. Topping off your tank allows emissions to escape, sometimes spilling gas.
- **Fuel when cool:** Fuel vehicle when it is cool, not in the heat of the day.
- **Small is good:** Use the smallest vehicle possible for the task. In other words, don't use a van if you really only need an economy car.”

¹ See the AA's Eco-Driving advice on their website: http://www.theaa.com/motoring_advice/fuels-and-environment/drive-smart.html

Thank you for your interest in Greening your driving!
Office of Sustainability, Ursinus College

