

Greener Grinstead

Efficient "greener" Driving

There is no getting away from it; most of us need to use our cars, but did you know that with some small changes we could all reap both financial and environmental rewards.

It's called eco-driving, and it's been calculated that driving this way could help save you up to £120 a year in petrol or diesel!

With fuel prices rising all the time, eco-driving could save you even more in the future.

Adopting an eco-driving style is easy. And once you've mastered it, not only will you start to make real savings, but you'll also be doing your bit for the environment. That's because eco-driving means driving your car more efficiently.

Doing this means your car will produce less carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main gas contributing to climate change. Remember to follow the steps below and you'll soon be saving money and reducing your car's impact on the environment.

1. Check your revs - change up before 2,500rpm (petrol) and 2,000rpm (diesel).
2. Anticipate road conditions



and drive smoothly, avoiding sharp acceleration and heavy braking. This saves fuel and reduces accident rates.

3. Use air conditioning sparingly as it significantly increases fuel consumption.
4. The most efficient speed depends upon the car in question but is typically around 45 - 50mph. Faster speed will greatly increase your fuel consumption.
5. Drive away immediately when starting from cold - idling to heat the engine wastes fuel and causes rapid engine wear.
6. Accessories such as roof racks, bike carriers, and roof boxes significantly affect your car's aerodynamics and reduce

fuel efficiency, so remember to remove them when not in use.

7. Avoid short journeys - a cold engine uses almost twice as much fuel and catalytic converters can take five miles to become effective.

8. Plan your journeys to avoid congestion, road works and getting lost.

9. Check your tyre pressure regularly - under-inflated tyres are dangerous and can increase fuel consumption by up to 3%.
10. If you're stuck in a jam, switch the engine off if you expect to be there for more than a minute or two. Cutting the engine will save fuel and reduce emissions.

Do you have any "green" tips you'd like to share with us?

If so, please email us at:

info@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

We'd love to hear from you.