

The NASSCO Tidepool

A Collection of Environmental News from the Shipyard and Our Community

Environmental Engineering Mission Statement

General Dynamics NASSCO Environmental Engineering is dedicated to maintaining an Environmental Management System that continually strives to go beyond regulatory compliance.



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General Dynamics NASSCO Environmental Engineering is committed to conducting all operations in a manner that safeguards the health and safety of all employees and the public, preserves natural resources, and protects the environment. This commitment to protecting the air, water, and land is carried out through energy conservation initiatives, recycling programs, and on-going process improvements.

10 Ways to Save Gas and Money

By Walter Camara, Professional Development Program



Tired of seeing the high cost of gas eating away at your wallet? Everyone knows that the higher the cost of gas, the less money you put in your wallet. While we can never escape fuel costs entirely, there are things we can do to save money on gas. Reducing the use of gas is also great for the environment. Every time you save gas you're actually reducing greenhouse emissions which is one of the causes for global warming. So cut your fuel costs with some of these suggestions:

1. Ensure that all your vehicles are properly maintained. Under inflated tires, dirty oil, clogged air filters and poorly tuned engines all increase your fuel usage. By keeping your vehicle(s) well maintained, you can cut your fuel consumption by up to 10-percent.

2. Consolidate your trips. You need to pick up some dry-cleaning and go to the post office. Maybe even make a deposit or withdrawal from the bank. Instead of making three separate trips, turn it into one trip and get it all done. Consolidating your trips

takes a little planning, but it is an easy way to cut your fuel usage.

3. Drivers don't have to idle. When you let your engine idle, all you're doing is increasing your fuel use. Contrary to popular belief, idling is not an effective way to warm up a vehicle, even in cold weather. The best way to warm up your vehicle is to drive it. Idling is not "better" than frequently turning on and off your vehicle's engine. If you are going to be parked for more than 10 seconds, turn off the engine. Ten seconds of idling can use more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it.

4. Trade in your vehicle(s) for vehicles with better fuel economy. Generally, cars have better gas mileage than trucks, vans, SUVs and smaller cars have even better gas mileage. If you're serious about cutting your fuel costs, it may be time to "downsize" your vehicles. Buying vehicles that run on other types of energy can save considerably on fuel. A good solution is a hybrid car which combines a fuel-efficient gas engine with an electric motor that assists the engine when accelerating. The electric motor is powered by batteries that recharge automatically while you drive.

5. Walk between stops. Once you get into town, some of your stops may be near each other. Park between some or all of them and walk.

6. Plan your trips in advance. This can prevent wasting fuel and wasting time. Plan to use alternative routes. Often, back roads can prevent you from stopping at traffic lights and, more importantly, sitting in traffic jams.

7. Clean out any unnecessary items in your car. If you have heavy objects in your car and its trunk that you don't need, remove them. If your car is lighter, it will use less fuel to get where you're going.

8. Remove unneeded racks. If you have a bicycle or ski rack, remove it when you're not using it. It causes drag and lowers mileage.

9. Fill the tank full. If you need to fill up, fill up all the way. The more money you try to save by adding \$10 today and then \$20 tomorrow will be wasted since each time you will have to travel to the station and wait for a pump. Instead, do it all at once to save time and money.

10. Drive the speed limit. It may sound simple, but you can save gasoline by slowing down and avoiding slamming on your brakes. Saving money on gas is possible, as long as you're willing to pay attention to what you're driving and how you're driving it. If you're willing to make a commitment and cut your fuel cost you won't only save money but the planet as well.

For any additional information, log on to these links:

<http://sbinfoCanada.about.com/od/management/a/savemoneygas.htm>

<http://retireplan.about.com/cs/budgeting/a/gasoline.htm>