

## Eco Driving Tips

Key things to remember to make you a 'Eco Driver'

### Maintenance

- (1) Remember the importance of regular servicing. Stick to the manufacturers' schedule in order to maintain engine efficiency;
- (2) Remember the need to use the correct specification of engine oil, and
- (3) Check tyre pressures regularly and before long journeys. Under inflated tyres create more rolling resistance and so use more fuel. Tyres that are underinflated by 25% increase rolling resistance by 10% and fuel consumption by 2%. The right tyre pressure is important for safety reasons too.

### Before Setting Off

Combine short trips – Cold starts are inefficient so try to combine errands rather than making multiple short journeys. Better still, it would improve your health and the environment if you can walk or cycle instead.

Don't get lost – Plan unfamiliar journeys to reduce the chance of getting lost. Use a map, sat.nav or on-line journey planner.

Lose weight and streamline - Extra weight means extra fuel so take out anything that isn't needed on the journey. Roof racks/boxes create extra wind resistance which increases fuel consumption. If it's not needed, take it off. If it is, pack it carefully to reduce extra drag.

### On the Journey

Leave promptly – don't start the engine until you are ready to go. This avoids fuel wastage due to unnecessary idling and ensures the engine warms up as quickly as possible.

Easy does it – Drive smoothly, accelerate gently and read the road ahead to avoid unnecessary braking.

Decelerate smoothly – by releasing the accelerator in time, leaving the car in gear.

Rolling – Stopping and starting again uses up more fuel than if you keep the car rolling.

Change up early – Change gear as soon as possible without labouring the engine. Change up at around 2500 rpm in a petrol car and 2000 rpm in a diesel car.

Cut down the air-conditioning – Air conditioning increases fuel consumption at low speeds but the effects are less noticeable at higher speeds. If it's a hot day, it's more economical to open the windows at low speeds.

Turn it off – Any electrical load increases fuel consumption so turn off the heated rear windscreen, demister blowers and lights when they are not required.

Stick to the limit – Drive at or within the speed limit. The faster the speed, the greater the fuel consumption and amount of pollution too. Travelling at 80mph can use up to 25% more fuel than 70mph.

In a queue, switch off the engine if it looks as though you will be stopped for more than 3 minutes.