

I Want My MPG!

Gas prices show no sign of settling down. With the summer driving season here, that volatility can make it difficult to budget for a driving vacation. Though prices seem to be beyond anyone's control, driving style does have some effect on fuel economy. Using easy to follow driving tips can increase fuel economy, thus lowering costs no matter where the price of gas goes.

This Hot Sheet describes some of the simple techniques that can help increase fuel economy. Since Toyota drivers are interested in value and economy, they're sure to appreciate the information.

Driving Tips for Better Fuel Economy (FE)



Vigorous vs. Moderate Driving

Speeding, rapid acceleration and rapid braking waste gas. Vigorous driving can lower city FE by about 5%, and highway FE by as much as a whopping 30%. Moderate driving not only saves gas, it's more courteous, too.



Lower Your Top Speed

For most vehicles, highway FE starts dropping rapidly once the speed gets above 60–65 mph. Chalk it up to physics: for every doubling of speed, air resistance quadruples. At high speeds, shoving all that air out of the way burns a lot of gas.



Use Cruise Control

On the highway, uneven throttle use can make the vehicle speed up and slow down enough to noticeably reduce FE. Many Toyotas are equipped with cruise control that accurately maintains a set speed, helping keep FE at a higher, consistent level.



Follow the Maintenance Schedule

Good maintenance habits will help a vehicle operate at peak efficiency, so follow the maintenance schedule. Be sure to use the correct weight and grade of oil, keep the wheels aligned and all the filters clean.



Use the Trip Computer

Many Toyotas feature a trip computer that includes a display of instantaneous and average mpg. Not only will the instantaneous mpg display reveal a "lead foot," but it can also help in maintaining better FE even in difficult circumstances such as hill climbing.

Driving Tips for Better Fuel Economy (FE)



Use the Energy Monitor

Prius features an Energy Monitor that includes an instant readout of the car's power source (engine, battery or both). Adjusting one's driving style to maximize the time under electric power will help keep the car sipping a minimum of gas.



Prius Driving Tips

A good Prius technique for slow traffic is to accelerate to the desired speed, then throttle back to maintain that speed using electric power. When slowing, brake lightly when possible, which allows more braking energy to be returned to the car's batteries.



Remove Unused Roof Racks

Today's vehicles are designed with clean lines to slip through the air. Roof racks cause turbulence, which can lower FE. If the racks are being used then there's an offsetting benefit, but unused racks increase gas usage for no increase in utility.



Remove Unneeded Cargo

It may be surprising to know that every 100 pounds of cargo can cause a 2% drop in FE. Go through the vehicle's cargo areas and remove unneeded items, especially heavy ones. This effect is more pronounced on smaller vehicles.



Keep the Tires Properly Inflated

Tires have to be only 3 psi low to cause about a 1% drop in FE. Check the tires regularly when they're cold. Look for the tire pressure label inside the driver's door frame (or check the Owner's Manual) to see what correct inflation is for that vehicle.



Drive Less

Oftentimes, destinations are close enough to be within easy reach of a comfortable walk or a pleasant bicycle ride. If the town has good public transit, try it for one day a week. Arrange carpools to soccer practice or getting to work. Ask if each trip is really necessary.

On the Other Hand...

Keep the Windows Closed?

Conventional wisdom says it saves gas to drive with the windows up and the air conditioning on, compared to windows down and air conditioning off. However, testing has shown there's actually no significant difference either way, so do whatever increases comfort.



Benefits of These Techniques

The tips presented here will help increase a vehicle's FE, but the bottom line is that higher FE equals higher savings at the pump. However, the savings don't stop there: techniques such as moderate driving can lower the wear-and-tear on a vehicle, which could lead to a longer service life or perhaps a higher residual value down the road.

One thing is certain: Toyota drivers value economy and efficiency, and these tips speak directly to those values.

For More Information:

<http://fuelconomy.gov>

<http://auto.howstuffworks.com/fuel-efficiency/fuel-economy/ten-green-driving-tips.htm>

<http://www.edmunds.com/advice/fueleconomy/articles/106842/article.html>

<http://www.edmunds.com/reviews/list/top10/103164/article.html>

http://eartheasy.com/live_fuel_efficient_driving.htm

http://www.toyotaownersonline.com/parts-service/service_tips.html



©2009 TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. COPYING OR ANY OTHER REPRODUCTION, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION OF TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A. IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., by the publication and/or dissemination of this publication does not create any warranties, either expressed or implied, as to Toyota products. The information contained herein was up-to-date at the time of publication, but may subsequently be changed or added to without notice and without incurring any obligation. Reliance on this information creates no

OMTP
Coordinating Marketing & Training Program

liability for Toyota. This publication is produced for use as an information sales aid. Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., its employees, representatives, and/or agents shall not be held liable for any omission of data or inclusion of erroneous data even where said omission is alleged to have been relied upon by a buyer of Toyota Products.

University
of Toyota
#HS055