

Remember the 4 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Repair

Greetings: Spring has arrived and those of us who live in colder climates are slowly coming out of our homes to enjoy the season.

We remain conscious of trying not to harm the environment as we watch the Spring flowers starting to bud.

I have been thinking of a few things that we can do to reduce the amount of fuel that we purchase.

- **Planning and combining errands:** An easy way to reduce your driving and fuel consumption is to think about all of the errands that you need to take care of before you get behind the wheel. Try to shop in one location and you will find that one ride covering a half-dozen stops can cut out five additional trips. You will not only save fuel, but you will reduce the wear and tear on your car. Purchase items through the Catalog sales - shop by phone or on-line to avoid unnecessary trips in your vehicle.
- **Save money by walking:** Walking is healthier for you than driving. It saves money on gas. It saves the planet. You would be doing your bit to save the world. It saves on paying for parking and the exercise is good for the body.
- **Another option:** Sell your cars. (Especially if you have more than one) Too drastic? Most cities have a Car share system where you can rent a car for a few hours a day or more. All of their cars are economical on gas mileage and they provide an excellent alternative especially for those who live in the inner city.
- **Alternative Transportation:** Bicycle or use public transportation to get to work or school. Carpool to work with people in your area who are going in the same direction.
- **Work from your home:** Many people are setting up an office or business in their home. Some employers are offering perks to their employees if they are willing to work from the comfort of their own residence.
- **Drive less:** Reducing the amount of driving we do, whether by carpooling or foregoing an unnecessary trip, is perhaps the most effective way to decrease the amount of gas that each person uses. Lower gas mileage is good for you, good for your car and good for the environment.

- **Turn off the car:** Idling gets zero miles per gallon and collectively consumes several billions of gallons of fuel per year. According to the U.S. Department of Energy vehicles should be turned off if the expected wait will be longer than 10 seconds, since an idling vehicle can burn as much as one gallon of gas each hour. Turning the car off can save about 5 cents per minute.
- **Buy Regular:** Most gas stations offer Unleaded Premium for 10 to 12 cents a gallon more than Unleaded Regular. Many customers think they are giving their car some kind of extra care by filling up with what they think is the best. Don't do it! According to my car expert sources virtually all automobiles run well on Unleaded Regular; so unless your vehicle documentation specifically states that it requires a premium grade of gas with higher octane, save your money and stick with regular.
- **Find the cheapest gas:** check one of the following weblinks before you leave home to buy your gas – they will let you know which gas station has the lowest prices in your area. <http://www.Buffalogasprices.com>
<http://www.automotive.com/gas-prices> (type in your location).
- Make sure your vehicle has regular maintenance. I will write more on this topic next month. To be continued.....

“Together we can make a difference”

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