

Sustainability Snapshots



On the move

Simple changes can save you \$\$ as well as saving our environment.

HOW WE TRAVEL

Walking and cycling is FREE and great exercise.

Do you know that if every vehicle owner in NSW reduced their travel by just 1km per day we could save 375,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases every year. Add this to the national health call to do 10,000 steps every day and we could really make a difference. Human – powered transport is best for both us and the environment and it's the little changes that add up to big savings. So, start today and see what savings you can make and how your fitness improves. Try setting yourself a target – less than 2km don't use the car.



Combine your car trips into one and carpool where possible.

Planning is the best way to reduce your car trips. Before going out think about (and perhaps list) everything you need to do, and places you need to go, then plan the easiest way to accomplish these tasks. For example, combine taking the kids to school with picking up a few groceries and the paper instead of making 2 trips. Or, share taking the kids to school with a neighbour, you reduce the number of cars making this trip and means more parking at the school too. The saving in running costs and your valuable time will really surprise you and these little things really do add up.

Use public transport whenever you can.

Next time you go into Newcastle think about leaving the car at a train station half way there and taking the train the rest of the way in. Easier (and free) parking out of the city and free buses in the city mean you can get around without much trouble. Also, a great adventure for kids as trains and buses are really fun for those who don't use them much.

MAINTAINING THE CAR:

Maintain the correct air pressure in your car tyres and remove roof racks to save on fuel costs.

Remember, the more weight, the more it costs to run. For example, for every extra half tonne that a car weighs, it uses an extra 700 litres of petrol a year. Keep the weight in your car lean and save. Similarly, additional parts on the exterior of a vehicle such as roof racks and spoilers, or having the window open, increases air resistance and fuel consumption, in some cases by over 20%. Also, inflate your vehicle's tyres to the highest pressure recommended by the manufacturer and make sure your wheels are properly aligned. Looking after your tyres will not only reduce your fuel consumption it will also extend tyre life and improve handling.

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MAINTAINING THE CAR:

Regular servicing makes your car run more efficiently.



Keeping your cars' engine tuned can reduce your pollution emissions by 5-10%. Keep your vehicle well tuned and reduce greenhouse gases by up to 5 per cent.

Drive efficiently – avoid stop-starting, fast accelerating or sudden braking – all use extra petrol.

Drive at a good distance from the car in front so you can anticipate and travel with the flow of traffic. This avoids unnecessary acceleration and frequent repetitive braking that ends up wasting fuel. It's also far safer. One test by Cars Guide demonstrated a \$7.50 saving over a 150km test between the 'Hoon' and the 'Miser' in the same vehicle and the hoon only saved 15mins over the 3 hour trip.

BUYING A NEW CAR:

Compare the fuel consumption stickers on windscreens of different cars.

The Fuel Consumption Label is an Australian Government initiative. If you are comparing two vehicles, the one with the lower number in the red box uses less fuel, and the one with the lower number in the green box releases fewer greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂) into the environment. Differences in fuel efficiency can really add up. Buying a car with what appears to be a small efficiency advantage of 2L/100km will save a considerable 1,500 litres of fuel over the period of 5 years with average travel of 15,000 kilometers per year. This will save the owner money and also help save the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by over 3.75 tonnes!

Buy a smaller car if possible.

When changing your car consider a car that will meet your needs with the most economical fuel rating. For example, if you are not towing heavy equipment then you probably do not need a car with a big engine. Or, if you do not go 4-wheel driving often then you may consider your reason for having a big 4-wheel drive to drive in the city. You may also want to consider a Hybrid (petrol/electric) or a diesel which are a lot more fuel efficient than petrol driven cars.

For more information and tips check out:

- carsguide.news.com.au/story/0,20384,17586052-21822,00.html
- www.greenhouse.gov.au/fuellabel/costs.html
- www.fuelwatch.wa.gov.au/info/dsp_fuel_economy_tips.cfm
- www.cityrail.info/timetable/index.jsp

Or contact your local Council:

