

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Martha Lieblich, Chair, Leonia Environmental Commission

Phone 201-592-7887

Email mlieblich@leonianj.gov

Top 7 driving tips to save gas and breathe easier

Eco-driving helps boost fuel efficiency and cut vehicle emissions

With gas prices on the rise and expected to exceed \$4 per gallon this summer, the Leonia Environmental Commission offers some suggestions for trimming your fuel expenses while reducing auto emissions that foul the air and contribute to climate change.

According to the Coalition for Eco-Driving, the average driver can save as much as \$990 per year in fuel costs by improving fuel efficiency from 20 MPG to 30 MPG through simple changes in driving habits. For example:

1. Use parallel parking - If you are lucky enough to find an open space, this often forgotten skill can save you time and gas. Every ten minutes you drive around looking for the “ideal” spot means another five pounds of CO₂ is released into the air.
2. Be AC smart - Air conditioning can reduce gas mileage by as much as 20 percent. In fact, your air conditioner can consume up to one gallon of gas per tank just to cool the vehicle. When driving at slower speeds (less than 40 mph), open windows are the wise choice. At higher speeds (over 40 mph), you’ll use less fuel by closing the windows and turning on the air conditioner. And five to ten minutes before you reach your destination, turn off your AC but keep the fan running.
3. Drive the speed limit - Highway driving above 60 miles per hour uses more fuel. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, every five miles over the 60 mph level is equivalent to paying 20 extra cents per gallon for gas. Observing the speed limit and keeping the speedometer under 60 mph can improve mileage by 7 to 23 percent.
4. Use cruise control – It can improve your fuel economy up to 7 percent.
5. Keep on rolling in traffic – Slow-and-go is always better than stop-and-go, because it takes much more energy to move a stopped vehicle than to keep a vehicle moving. It can take 20 percent more fuel to accelerate from a full stop than from five miles per hour.
6. Use more right turns - Turning right is often the quickest and most convenient way to get around town because you don’t have to worry about oncoming traffic and often don’t have to wait at a red traffic light (unless there’s a “No Right on Red” sign). Over the course of the year, you could reduce your CO₂ emissions by several hundred pounds.
7. Idling is “fuelish” – A car may waste more than half a gallon of fuel for every hour spent idling, while producing unnecessary exhaust, which is the leading source of hazardous air pollution in our state. The Environmental Commission encourages everyone to turn off

car engines when waiting: to drop off or pick up school kids, at the railroad crossing, at a drive-through window, at the post office, when stalled in traffic for long periods, while fueling cars, or whenever they are stopped for longer than ten seconds. Local merchants should also ask vendors to turn off their truck engines while unloading.

Leonia's all-volunteer Environmental Commission is rolling out its **Walk Leonia** campaign this spring in an effort to reduce vehicle emissions that pollute the air and threaten the health of people and the planet. The program kicks off at Leonia Day on May 20 where Commission members will give away copies of a special new walking map of Leonia along with other information on how to reduce vehicle emissions.

The Leonia Environmental Commission, one of the first environmental commissions in New Jersey, is appointed by the Mayor to advise the town on conservation, open space preservation, water resources, solid waste management and other environmental matters. The Commission meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM in the Committee Room of the Leonia Borough Hall, 312 Broad Avenue. The public is welcome to attend. For information call 201-592-7887, email mlieblich@leonianj.gov or visit the Environmental Commission page on the Borough's web site at www.leonianj.gov.

References:

- I-95 Corridor Coalition: Eco-Driving: Drive Green, Save Green
<http://www.i95coalition.org/i95/CoalitionEcoDrivingCampaign/tabid/216/Default.aspx>
- Discovery: Planet Green
<http://tlc.howstuffworks.com/family/emissions-reduction-tips.htm>
- U.S. Energy Information Administration
<http://205.254.135.24/forecasts/steo/>