



Reducing Your Gas Costs

Submitted by Muffy Floyd

Are you getting depressed about the cost of fuel to drive your car? I know, stupid question – everyone is noticing the almost daily increase in the price per gallon. Well, there is something you can do to help soften that pain – it’s called “hyper-mileage” and it doesn’t cost anything to do. Basically, you simply have to change some driving habits.

The simplest way to describe it is to get rid of the “lead foot” - go the speed limit, avoid hard/fast acceleration, and anticipate turns and stops by taking your foot off the gas way before the turn or stop to minimize the amount of braking you have to do. Depending on what your current driving style is, you could improve fuel economy up 37 percent!! That equates to real savings at the gas pump.

Here are few tips:

- Avoid unnecessary trips – that saves the most gas
- Change from an aggressive driver to a moderate driver. Coast to the stop sign; take your foot off the gas going downhill; accelerate gently
- Lower your speed to the speed limit
- If your car has cruise control, use it where appropriate
- Avoid excessive idling – if you will be idling for more than a minute, turn the car off
- Get unnecessary extra weight out of the car – like that cement block that you put in the back of the pickup to help with traction in the winter
- Take the roof rack off if you aren’t using it
- Check your tire pressure

If you have access to the internet here are a couple of websites that go into more detail:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypermiler>

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

I speak from experience that we’ve improved our

mileage about 10% just by driving more gently. And it also is a lot less stressful.

On another note regarding reducing the amount of gas I use: In an issue of “Vienna Record” last year, I discussed small engine use and the amount of pollution they emit and recommended being prudent in their use. This year I took my advice to heart and bought an electric lawn mower and I love it. Yes, it takes longer to mow the lawn and more work (I have to push it rather than ride it). But the real eye-opener for me was when I realized that when I use my riding mower I use more gas mowing my lawn once than I use on a trip to Augusta and back in my car.

NEW at Norridgewock Transfer Station:

For those of you who use the Norridgewock transfer station you will need to get a sticker for your vehicle. These will be available at the Town Clerks Office in early August. The stickers are on order and I will place a notice on the website when they arrive. Until then Dave Garvis has assured us that Vienna residents will still be accepted at the gate with another proof of residence.

In the future, you will be given the opportunity when you register your vehicles to get a sticker. The good news for Vienna is that Waste Management is going “single stream”. This refers to a system in which all recycleables are placed together in a single container. There is no need to separate materials. They will take more items than we currently accept at curbside. So, if you are interested in this type of recycling pick up a sticker for your vehicle at the Clerk’s Office and make use of the transfer station.

The Transfer Station in Norridgewock is on Airport Rd.
The Hours are Thurs-Sun 7:30-4:00
Single Stream recycling will begin on July 31st

Additional items that they will be accepting are: paperback books, milk cartons, drink boxes, frozen food packaging, clear & colored glass, all plastics. Brochures will be available at the transfer station with instructions and the complete list of recycleable materials.