

Green Tip of the Week



In Canada idling cars wastes 630 million litres of fuel in a year! With the price, wasting gas also means wasting money. As for the atmosphere, CO₂ is the main greenhouse gas linked to climate change. With every litre of gasoline used 2.3 kilograms of CO₂ is produced.

What can you do?

This one is easy – when you stop your car, except when in traffic, turn off instead of idling. Studies have shown that if you are idling for more than ten seconds it is better for your car and environment to turn it off. Your car is designed to warm up as you drive so starting your car and letting it idle to warm it up is actually worse for your car than getting in it and driving. Another way to help reduce your CO₂ emissions is to always keep your car in good working condition and tires inflated, a well maintained vehicle can reduce fuel consumption by 10-15%. Keeping unnecessary weight out of your car will allow it to increase the amount of kilometers per litre. Drive sensibly to try to avoid quick starts and stops that can increase your fuel consumption. Slow your driving, most cars get the best fuel efficiency between the speeds of 80km/h and 100km/h. Driving at 120km/h rather than 100km/h can increase your fuel consumption by 20%.

What is SMU Doing?

SMU has placed signage around campus to encourage people to keep these spaces idle free. So please no idling on campus!

For more information on fuel consumption and cutting your CO₂ emissions please visit www.smu.ca/sustainability or email sustainability@smu.ca

Sources

<http://green.autoblog.com/2009/10/29/greenlings-how-does-weight-affect-a-vehicles-efficiency/>

<http://oec.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/personal/idling.cfm>

<http://sgauto.wordpress.com/2010/07/30/better-fuel-consumption-tips/>