



# Take Action: Reduce Air Pollution from On-Road Mobile Sources

The Vehicle you drive and how you use it may have a greater effect on the environment than any other choice you make as a consumer. A large majority of all the air pollution in Rhode Island comes from vehicles. Vehicles that run on gasoline or diesel fuel emit many things out of their tailpipe, including:

- Carbon dioxide: Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is a greenhouse gas. Greenhouse gases contribute to global climate change.
- Carbon monoxide: Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless gas that takes the place of oxygen in our blood stream. Our bodies receive less oxygen if we breathe carbon monoxide.
- Unburned gasoline vapors: These can contribute to the formation of ozone, also known as smog. Ozone produced at the ground level can have serious health effects on people who suffer from lung diseases, asthma or emphysema.
- Other toxic air pollutants, including fine particles. Toxic air pollutants include a variety of chemicals known to cause cancer, poisoning and other ailments. These chemicals can be inhaled or may accumulate in the soil and human food chains.

You can reduce pollution and emissions from your car by choosing your car carefully, maintaining it properly, driving efficiently, and reducing the number of miles you drive it.

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## Choose Carefully

### Choose the right size.

- Choose the size and type of vehicle that meets your daily needs.
- If you only carry large loads a few times per year, consider borrowing or renting a large vehicle, trailer, or car-top carrier for those occasions.

## Choose the Highest Efficiency

### Look for the miles per gallon rating.

- The more miles per gallon a vehicle gets, the more efficient it is, the less pollution it will generate, and the more money you'll save.

## Compare

### Once you determined the size and type of the vehicle you will need, visit one of the EPA greener vehicle websites to compare models for fuel efficiency.

- [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov)
- [www.epa.gov/greenvehicle](http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicle)

## Expand Your Options

### There are many alternative fuel vehicles on the market today that will help you save money and make less of an impact on the environment.

- [Hybrid Electric Vehicles](#) (HEV) combine the benefits of gasoline engines with electric motors to increase fuel efficiency up to 50% (up to a combined 50 mpg). An onboard computer does the work switching between gas and electric motors.
- [Electric Vehicles](#) (EV) store electricity in batteries to power cars. On-board generators powered by a gas can replenish the power to the batteries when a plug-in option is not available in some EV models. There are [state and federal tax credits and incentives](#) for vehicles.
- [FlexFuel Vehicles](#) (E85 ethanol) are capable of operating on [E85](#) (85% ethanol, 15% gasoline), only gasoline or a mixture of both. Local fuel production of ethanol decreases reliance on fossil fuel imports.
- [Cleaner Diesel](#) vehicles have lower emissions and higher mileage due to high fuel injection pressures-up to 26,000 psi. This pulverizes the fuel into tiny droplets that burn more completely and other technology improvements.

## Save Gas

### Use the car less.

- Make a commitment to not drive your car one day a week.
- Whenever possible, replace driving with biking or walking. Take advantage of one of [Rhode Island's Bike Paths](#).
- Use public transportation more often. Visit the [RIPTA](#) website for fares, schedules, and other travel information.

### Carpool.

- Match up work, school, or teammates who live near each other. Visit [carpool](#) or [NuRide](#) for more information.
- Ask your employer to provide incentives, like free parking to encourage car pooling.

## Maintain Your Vehicle

### Check your tire pressure.

- You will improve your gas mileage by up to 3% by keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure.

### Change the oil regularly.

- If you change the oil regularly and use the proper grade of motor oil. You can improve your gas mileage by 1-2%.

### Proper wheel alignment & adjusted brakes

- All help improve fuel efficiency and auto safety.

## Drive More Efficiently

### No matter what vehicle you drive, you can reduce total miles you drive and learn to drive more efficiently. Adopting these practices can improve your fuel efficiency by up to 10%!

- Drive sensibly, avoid excessive speeding, rapid acceleration and braking. Jackrabbit starts and heavy braking waste fuel.
- Use cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed, and in most cases, will save you gas.
- Observe the speed limit; gas mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 50 mph.
- Remove excess weight from unnecessary items in your vehicle.
- Avoid excessive idling. Idling results in zero miles to the gallon. If you will be waiting for more than 10 seconds it takes less gas to restart your car than to idle.

*Congratulations and thank  
you for your  
commitment to a  
healthier planet!*

For more information, please call or  
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