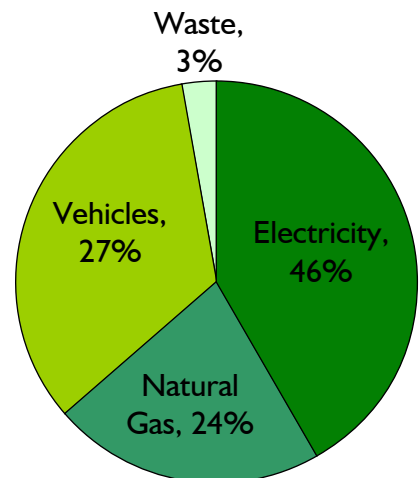


Transportation

Green Calgary has compiled a 'Getting There Green' guide that highlights fuel saving driving, alternative transportation and ways to get around Calgary more efficiently. The guide can be downloaded from www.greencalgary.org.

The following is a breakdown (by vehicle type) of Canada's cumulative greenhouse gases emissions as it relates to personal transportation:

- Cars 47%
- Light Trucks 31%
- Air 18%
- Buses 4%
- Motorcycles > 1%
- Rail > 1%



THE CHECKLIST

- Take transit (<http://www.calgarytransit.com/index.html>), walk or ride a bike
 - Fed gov't offers a \$150 non-refundable tax credit to cover part of a monthly public transit pass. www.cra-arc.gc.ca search Public Transit Pass
 - Park and Ride in Calgary – www.calgary.ca – search Park and Bike + Bikes on CT;
- Consider riding a bike for a few trips per week – in many cases, it is faster to go 5kms by bike in the city centre than by car. You also save on having to get your exercise another way and you can enjoy the paths and nature right here in Calgary.
- Consider walking for several trips instead of jumping in the car. www.walkscore.com is an excellent resource to find local services around you home.
- Check your tire pressure regularly - Under-inflated tires are estimated to cost Canadian light-duty vehicle owners almost 643 million litres of fuel annually.
 - Under inflation of 2psi means a 1% increase in fuel consumption per tire!;
- Keep your vehicle well maintained – Virtually all components of your car affect fuel efficiency and performance, so maintain your vehicle properly. A clogged air filter, for example, can increase fuel consumption by 10%;
- Minimize idling - Idling for more than 10 seconds wastes more fuel than restarting your engine.



The Great Idling Myth

Contrary to popular belief, excessive idling is not an effective way to warm up your vehicle, even in cold weather. The best way to warm it up is to drive it. In fact, with today's computer-controlled engines, even on cold winter days, usually **no more than two to three minutes of idling** is enough warm-up time needed for the average vehicle before starting to drive – but make sure that windows are free from snow and properly defrosted before driving away!

Source: Environment Canada (<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/idling/warm-up.cfm?attr=8>)

- Use a block heater with an automatic timer. Plug in 2 hours prior to departure. http://www.ec.gc.ca/EnviroZine/english/issues/40/print_version_e.cfm?page=questions

Use a Block Heater

Block heaters are used for starting vehicles in cold temperatures, greatly reducing the warm-up time of the engine. Plugging the vehicle in for 1 to 2 hours is sufficient. In a test program done by the Environmental Technology Centre, a vehicle sitting at -25 °C was warmed using a block heater for two hours and then driven in an urban environment. The result was a 25 per cent improvement in fuel consumption compared to cold-starting a vehicle and driving over the same route.

Source: Environment Canada

(http://www.ec.gc.ca/EnviroZine/english/issues/40/print_version_e.cfm?page=questions)

- If you are purchasing a new vehicle try to choose the right size for most of your needs. Large vehicles typically use more fuel, take up more space and are harder on road surfaces. If you need a larger vehicle once and a while, consider renting one. This is a much more cost effective solution than always driving a large vehicle for the odd time that it is needed. Visit www.nrcan.gc.ca and search “**Fuel Consumption Guide**” for the ratings of hundreds of different vehicles.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Active & Safe Routes to School (www.saferoutestoschool.ca): a website providing resources, tools, information and links for schools and communities to create their own unique Active & Safe Routes to School program.

Calgary Alternative Transportation Cooperative (CATCO – www.calgarycarshare.ca): Calgary’s very own car sharing cooperative.

Car Heaven (www.carheaven.ca): an initiative of the Clean Air Foundation, designed to reward and enable people to get their older, high-polluting cars permanently off the road.

Carpool.ca: a website dedicated to connecting individuals who are considering carpooling as an alternate means of commuting.

Citizen’s Bank Clean Air Auto Loan (www.citizensbank.ca): search ‘Clean Air Auto Loan’): offering members low-interest loans for their purchase of an eligible low-emission vehicle.

ecoAuto Rebate Program (www.tc.gc.ca – search ecoAuto Rebate Program): offering rebates to Canadians who buy an eligible low-emission vehicle.

Hail a Hybrid (<http://www.hailahybrid.ca/>): a partnership between Climate Change Central and several taxi companies to accelerate the use of hybrids in the taxi industry. Request a hybrid from Associated, Checker, or Mayfair taxi companies.

Sustainable Alberta’s Commuter Challenge (www.calgarycommute.ca):

Schoolpool.ca: a website designed to connect parents with other families in order to share commuting needs.

PRODUCED BY GREEN CALGARY

Empowering Calgarians to create healthy homes and communities by providing environmental education, products and services.

Green Calgary offers a variety of programs to help achieve mandates of waste reduction and water protection including Environmental Education; Healthy Homes Calgary; Commercial Environmental Services (formerly Calgary Materials Exchange); EcoStore - selling environmental products that reduce our environmental footprint; Information Services & E-newsletter.

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