Sustainable Energy

Energy Saving Actions Survey Energy Saving Actions Ideas

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Energy News
Town of New Glasgow and County of Pictou to Host Business Breakfast on Energy
Students Helping Seniors to Help Seniors Oct 10, 2007

The community of New Glasgow values energy conservation and sustainable energy use.

This was shown by the strong support given by residents, operators of businesses and institutions, the mayor, councillors and town staff during an energy savings project that began in July 2006. Between then and March 2007, more than 250 people attended town hall meetings, ward meetings, workshops or committee meetings.

Out of this process, town residents agreed to reduce community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by six per cent by 2013. In doing so, the town is poised to have completed the first three milestones of Partners for Climate Protection, a program of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The town and its people have shown a commitment to energy sustainability, which will save money, improve local air quality and reduce GHG emissions to help slow climate change.

This page will help provide the tools residents will need to help do their part. To try to make sustainable energy use enjoyable, this page will also feature contests, prizes and a way for residents to share what they've learned.

Previous Months Tips

View August Tips

View September Tips

Tips for Eco-Driving

(from www.drivewiser.ca, supported by Conserve Nova Scotia and Clean Nova Scotia)

Chill out

"Jackrabbit" starts and stops, i.e. fast starts and hard stops, increase your fuel consumption by up to 37% - but they only cut your travel time by 2.5 minutes!

A steady pace uses less gas. It also decreases your level of stress, and you don't have to worry about being pulled over. The majority of energy used by an automobile is consumed during acceleration. That energy is lost every time the vehicle is forced to slow down unnecessarily – for example, if you approach other vehicles too quickly, or race towards red lights.

Accelerate smoothly when passing other cars and when merging with faster traffic.

Predict what is happening one block ahead of you.

Avoid hard braking by leaving plenty of room between your vehicle and the one in front of you.
Gear Up

Eco-driving is even easier in a standard: Set your car in motion without pressing down the throttle, shift to a higher gear as soon as possible and keep a steady speed. You will lower your fuel consumption.

If you have an automatic, try not to rev over 2500 rpm.

Driving at low revs means changing gears between 2000 and 2500 rpm. If your vehicle is not equipped with a tachometer, the following list provides some guidance:

• 1st gear: to get going (one vehicle length)

• 2nd gear: up to 25 kmph/ 15 mph

• 3rd gear: 25 - 40 kmph/ 15 - 25 mph

• 4th gear: 40 - 50 kmph/ 25 - 30 mph

• 5th gear: 50 kmph+/ 30 mph+

30 Seconds 'Til Take-off

Brush or scrape your windows before you turn on your car. Dress warmly on cold days.

Once a vehicle is running, the best way to warm it up is to drive it. With computer-controlled, fuel-injected engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days before driving away (as long as your windows are clear). Anything more wastes fuel and increases emissions.

Don't let your car warm up while stationary – You only need 30 seconds to warm your car up in your driveway before you drive away. Why? Other parts of the car need to be warmed up too.

The wheel bearings, steering, suspension, transmission and tires can only warm up as you drive the car.

Most importantly, the computer under the hood that monitors your emissions and regulates fuel consumption doesn't turn on until the car has been in motion for 5-10 kms.
Eco-Maintenance Tips

A poorly maintained or malfunctioning car can release as much as 100 times the pollution of a well-maintained car.
You do the math

The following list shows the percentage of a tank full of gas that's wasted by these common maintenance and driving problems. You can change all of these yourself!

• Dirty oil = 12%

• Dirty air filter = 10%

• Underinflated tires = 4% (4 tires underinflated by 2 psi each)

• Speeds over 100km/hr = 20%

• Idling for 1 hour a week = 10%

• Every 100 lbs you carry =2%

Almost half your tank of gas can be used up simply by the abuse or neglect of your vehicle. You could pocket over $600 a year.

Download the full

'12 months' Calandar

Click here!

Last Month's Report:

Walk or Wheel to Work Day

New Glasgow's first ever Walk or Wheel to Work Day was held Thursday the 26th, 2007. There were approximately 70

people from around the county, and even some out of province residents, who dropped in, called or e-mailed to register for Walk or Wheel to Work Day. The walkers and bikers covered a total of 463 kilometers! For every kilometer walked or biked instead of driven our walkers and bikers kept 280 grams of Green House Gas emissions out of our environment, keeping a total of 129,416 grams of unnecessary Green House Gas's out of our air! With people walking/biking from 1 kilometer, to people biking up to 48 kilometers, it shows us that even doing little things has an impact on our environment. We would like to thank everyone for participating, and encourage people to continue walking or biking to work!

Thanks also goes out to the sponsors New Glasgow Residential Energy Committee, Energy Conservation and Sustainability project of the Town of New Glasgow, Municipality of Pictou County, Conserve Nova Scotia, New Glasgow's Police Services, New Glasgow Development Commission and New Glasgow Recreation.

Total Participants: 69

Total Kilometers: 462.8

Total GHG not emitted: 129,416 grams

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