

TRANSPORTATION



As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

LUKE 19:36-37, NLT

10 WAYS TO START

1. **Bike.** For short trips around town, try biking instead of driving.
2. **Walk.** If the weather is nice and your neighborhood is conducive, try walking to a friend's house instead of driving.
3. **Combine Trips.** Do all your errands in one trip. If you're already out, think about other stops you may need to make along the way.
4. **Drive Slower.** Driving around 55 mph gets the best possible gas mileage.
5. **Pressure Up.** Make sure your tires are at the appropriate pressure level. You can improve your gas mileage by 3.3% by keeping your tires properly inflated.
6. **Use Public Transportation.** The average annual cost of driving a single-occupant car is between \$4,826 and \$9,685. Compare that to the average cost of a year's worth of public transportation: \$200 to \$2,000.
7. **Wash Clean.** Use a biodegradable soap like Simple Green Car Wash or Gliptone Wash 'n Glow to wash your car. Or make your own eco-friendly car wash by using a few squirts of biodegradable liquid dishwashing detergent or laundry detergent mixed with a bucket of water.
8. **Offset.** Purchase carbon offsets to make up for carbon emitted by your travel.
9. **Carpool.** Whether to work, to church, to parties, or meetings, carpooling can save gas and money.
10. **Switch.** Next time you're shopping for a car consider a hybrid or other fuel-efficient vehicle. Check out the savings you can reap in fuel costs: A conventional car will cost you about \$43 in fuel per week, or \$11,180 over five years' time. A hybrid is less than half that: \$22 per week, or \$5,720 over five years.



More Tips

- Getting regular oil changes and air-filter changes and replacing your spark plugs when recommended can increase your miles per gallon by 20 percent.
- Ask your employer about telecommuting or switching to a four-day workweek.
- Bike safe. If you have never seen a cyclist on your normal route to work, look for a bike route with bike lanes and wide shoulders.
- Drive a scooter or moped. They can get up to 100 miles per gallon!
- Visit the League of American Bicyclists' Web site at www.bikeleague.org to find out how to bring better bicycling to your community.

- Check out long-distance bus routes. Buses are often the least expensive and most energy-efficient form of transportation. A motor coach bus gets an average of 184.4 passenger miles per gallon—compared to 101.1 mpg for a vanpool, 85.8 for a commuter rail, and 27.7 for the average car. Pack a lunch, enjoy the scenery, and let someone else drive.
- Think you're not driving a gas guzzler? The average U.S. family car travels about 15,000 miles each year. This adds up to 5.8 tons of greenhouse gas pollution and \$2,222 in gasoline. If you have two family cars, that's \$4,444 in gasoline alone.
- Look for the silver lining! Nine great things about the high cost of gas:
 - a. Less traffic—People start combining trips and using public transportation when driving to the mall costs \$15 or more!
 - b. Increased demand for public transportation will result in better service and more convenient public transportation.
 - c. Four-day workweeks and telecommuting—More employers see the wisdom of flexible schedules and allowing employees to work from home.
 - d. More frugality—With gasoline taking a bigger bite out of our budgets, people are turning to old-fashioned frugality. The result? Fewer impulsive purchases, less eating out, and more time for family, neighbors, and God.
 - e. Cheaper insurance—Insurance premiums are determined, in part, by how much people drive. If you telecommute or work a shorter workweek, call your car insurance provider. It could save you 10 to 15 percent on your insurance bill.
 - f. Fewer traffic deaths—Most people know that driving slower consumes less gasoline. Statistically, driving slower also results in fewer traffic deaths and less accidents—another way to love our neighbors.
 - g. Less air pollution–related deaths—Driving slower, and less driving in general, results in less air pollution. J. Paul Leigh, a health economics professor at the University of California in Davis, estimates that at least two thousand lives per year have been saved due to reduced air pollution since gas prices went up.
 - h. Less suburban sprawl—Cities are being revitalized as 30-plus-mile commutes become impractical. Living closer to work means less stress and more time with family.
 - i. Less obesity—The less people drive, the more they will walk or ride their bikes, which results in better overall health.
- Ask your local car-wash manager if they recycle the water; if they do, it's more efficient to use a commercial car wash—provided you don't make a special trip to get there.
- If you wash your car at home park on your lawn instead of the driveway. It will act as a natural filter for the soap, dirt, and oil that would otherwise flow into storm drains, eventually causing damage to rivers, streams, and other wetlands.

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