Oregon Department of Energy offers gasoline-saving tips

What should I choose to drive?

- The Oregon Department of Energy offers tax credits on hybrid and alternative-fuel vehicles. To learn more, visit <www.oregon.gov/energy> or call 1-800-221-0035.


- Learn about electric-drive vehicles on the Electric Drive Transportation Association website at <www.electricdrive.org>.

- When renting a car, ask for a model that gets better fuel economy. Fill up the tank before returning the car to the rental company to avoid their higher gas prices.

Where do I get more ideas?

- Find additional tips for saving fuel and money from the American Automobile Association at <www.aaa.com>.

- Visit <www.energy.gov/gaswatch/> for more ideas on saving fuel and money from the Department of Energy.

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What do I do to my car before I drive?

- Keep your car properly tuned up to improve gas mileage by about four percent.

- Improve mileage by up to 40 percent by replacing a faulty oxygen sensor.

- Keep tires properly inflated to improve your gas mileage by more than three percent. This also extends the life and ensures the safety of your tires.

- Use the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil to improve your gas mileage by another one to two percent.

- Select motor oil with "Energy Conserving" on the API performance symbol to be sure it contains friction-reducing additives.

- Check and replace air filters regularly. Replacing a clogged or dirty air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent, and a clean filter keeps impurities from damaging the inside of your engine.

- Remove ski racks when not in use. Roof racks increase a vehicle's aerodynamic drag and reduce mileage.

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