

CLIMATE MASTERS™ OF NEW MEXICO

Shrinking your climate footprint and motivating others to do the same thing

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

In New Mexico, transportation accounts for about half of a household's greenhouse-gas emissions, depending on how much one flies or drives.

The average New Mexican drives about 12,000 miles per year, using 500 gallons of gasoline and emitting over five tons of carbon dioxide a year. The main way to reduce these emissions is to reduce the number of miles driven in your car: use public transit, cycle, or simply walk. This not only benefits the environment but saves money and is good for your health. Also, using public transit can result in savings on fuel and car maintenance, and often means you do not have to walk as far to your destination as you might have to walk from your parked car. Other ways of reducing your emissions from transport are by increasing the efficiency of your car and through fuel-efficient driving.

Air travel has become a major part of the modern world, but few people know about the high greenhouse-gas emissions associated with it – not only the carbon dioxide emissions from burning fuel but other greenhouse-gas emissions such as nitrous oxide, and the creation of contrails. In addition, the emissions from airplane travel carry about twice the negative impact of other emissions because they are released high in the atmosphere. Therefore, for every passenger-mile traveled by air, one pound of greenhouse gas is emitted compared to 0.42 pounds of carbon dioxide per passenger-mile by bus, 0.35 pounds carbon dioxide per passenger-mile by train, and one pound carbon dioxide per passenger-mile by car.

Recommendations: Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled

1. **Take public transit**, walk, or cycle at least twice a week.
2. **Work from home**; try telephone and teleconferencing.
3. **Carpool with your family**, other parents, friends and neighbors.
4. **Run errands less often** by buying bigger quantities and combining trips. This can reduce weekly vehicle miles traveled by 50%.
5. **Walk or cycle** when running errands nearby.
6. **Plan weekend and social activities closer to home.** Leisure travel is increasing, so instead get an extra workout by biking or walking to the gym.

Recommendations: Maintain an Efficient Car

1. **Checking tire pressure** regularly and inflating as needed saves as much as 3% of fuel. Most gas stations have tire gauges, and tire retailers and mechanics are also available to help you check your tire pressure.
2. **Changing the air filter** regularly saves as much as 10% of fuel.
3. **Keeping the engine tuned** saves as much as 4% of fuel.

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Recommendations: Fuel Efficient Driving

1. **Use the most fuel efficient vehicle** you own.
2. **Warm up the engine by driving**; it's better for the car than stationary warm ups and results in fewer emissions.
3. **Plan your route to avoid idling** in traffic; idling for more than ten seconds uses more fuel than restarting your car.
4. **Rid your car of unnecessary weight** and remove the roof rack. You lose 1% fuel efficiency for every 100 extra pounds you carry. Roof racks reduce the aerodynamics of your vehicle so take it off when not in use.
5. **Maintain a steady speed** on highways and drive at 55 miles per hour – the most fuel efficient highway speed.
6. **Accelerate and brake steadily.**
7. **When buying a new car check fuel economy labels** and buy the most fuel efficient vehicle possible.
8. **Use alternative fuels:** 85% ethanol in a dual-fuel car reduces carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 18%, and hybrid cars reduce them by as much as 30%, whereas diesel cars that run on 100% biodiesel can save 75% of CO2 emissions.

Recommendations: Air Travel

1. **Cut one 5000 mile round trip by air** and reduce your greenhouse-gas emissions by one and one half to two tons per person.
2. **Travel 1000 miles by train**, not air, and save one quarter ton of greenhouse-gas emissions per person.
3. **Have business meetings over the phone** or the Internet instead of traveling long distances.
4. **Plan a vacation close to home.** Find new adventures in your area.

RESOURCES

40mpg.org—hybrid advocacy, information about fuel efficiency of various vehicles, and calculators.
<http://www.40mpg.org>

American Public Transportation Association—info including transit calculators for cost and carbon savings (Members < Programs & Services < Advocacy & Outreach Tools)
<http://www.apta.com>

FuelEconomy.gov—information on driving efficiently, vehicle mileage, biofuels, and hybrids:
<http://www.fueleconomy.gov>

Map My Ride—provides routes for any destination around the country
<http://www.mapmyride.com>

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U.S. EPA—

Green Vehicle Guide: stats on the latest fuel-efficient vehicles.
<http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles>
Transportation & air quality information
<http://www.epa.gov/otaq>

Local / State / Regional:

City of Albuquerque—ABQ Ride & Bicycle trails map

<http://www.cabq.gov/transit>
<http://www.cabq.gov/bike>

Bicycle Coalition of New Mexico

<http://www.bikenm.org>

New Mexico Rail Runner:

<http://www.nmrailrunner.com>

New Mexico Cycling:

<http://www.nmcycling.org>

NM EMNRD—Energy Conservation & Management Division's info on Clean Fuels & Efficient Transportation

NM DOT Ridefinders program

988-RIDE (7433)
<http://nmshtd.state.nm.us/main.asp?secid=14999>



A program sponsored by the New Mexico Environment Department