

Wheels: What can a person do to increase their fuel economy?

Halderman: There are several things that can be done to reduce the amount of fuel used, including:

- **Drive less** – Try to avoid making short trips unless absolutely necessary. It is amazing how many miles can be driven just driving short distances, but often. Put your errands in order and do them in one trip.
- **Slow down** – Driving at a slower speed reduces fuel consumption. The most economical speed is about 45 mph because the transmission is in high gear and wind resistance is not a major factor. Driving 5 to 10 miles an hour slower on the highway can result in 5% to 10% increase in fuel economy.
- **Keep tires properly inflated** – Check tire pressures regularly and adjust the pressure to match the specified tire pressure as shown on the label on the driver’s door.
- **Do not carry “stuff”** – Often we carry tools or sports equipment all of the time even when not needed. Clean out the trunk and only carry what is necessary.
- **Car pool if possible** – By driving every other day instead of every day really helps reduce the amount of fuel used and reduces the environmental impact.

