



Making smart choices on transportation and travel can save you money and reduce your carbon footprint. Remember to take these simple steps when going to work, taking vacations, or just roaming around the City. GreenNYC encourages you to walk, cycle, and use public transportation when you're on the go. If you need to drive, there are tips for that too.

USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Green your commute by choosing to travel by bus or train. MTA riders keep 700,000 cars out of New York City's central business district, preventing 400 million pounds of soot, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and other toxic substances from being released each year into the city's air. Go to mta.info to find the easiest way to get around the City using public transportation.

RIDE YOUR BIKE

It's good for you and the environment! As of February 2009 DOT has installed approximately 170 miles of new bike lanes... Use them!

TAKE A SUSTAINABLE VACATION

Sustainable travel ensures that you minimize your eco-footprint. Choose travel agencies that specialize in eco-tourism to be sure that your trip is protecting indigenous cultures and safely promoting local economies.

CHOOSE A GREEN HOTEL

Green hotels work to cut waste and conserve water and energy through eco-friendly practices such as installing energy-efficient heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, using energy-saving CFL light bulbs, and providing towel racks that allow towels to air dry instead of being washed daily. Research hotels before booking and select the most sustainable option in your destination.

ASK YOUR RENTAL COMPANY ABOUT HYBRIDS

You can make a difference in emissions by making a smart choice when renting a vehicle. Rental car companies across the nation have responded to consumers' preferences in more fuel efficient cars and have stocked their fleets with hybrids. And while you're at the counter, ask about the possibility of purchasing carbon offsets.

FOR LONG DISTANCES, TRAVEL BY TRAIN OR BUS

Air travel releases significant amounts of greenhouse gases into the earth's atmosphere, accounting for 9% of the total climate change impact of human activity. Take a train or coach bus and avoid long airport lines. Enjoy the slower pace while knowing that your trip is leaving a significantly lower carbon footprint. Traveling by train is up to 70% more energy efficient and produces 85% less air pollution than flying.

SELL YOUR CAR

If you don't drive every day, carsharing is a feasible alternative to owning a car. Sell your vehicle to save yourself money, energy, and the hassle of parking your car in the City.

If you need to own a car, be responsible and lessen your impact on the environment...

DRIVE SMARTER

Improve your fuel economy by up to 5% just by accelerating steadily and anticipating traffic. Avoid rush hour by staggering your commute by 30 minutes, significantly saving time and reducing emissions. Also, not sitting in traffic cuts down on idling, which accounts for over 15% waste in your car's fuel economy.

CUT THE IDLING AND TURN IT OFF

Every year, NYC idling causes as much pollution as nine million large trucks driving from the Bronx to Staten Island. This pollution contributes to asthma, cancer, and heart disease. Idling for longer than 10 seconds wastes more fuel than restarting your engine. In fact, over \$28 million in gas is wasted by NYC idlers each year. Furthermore, curbside idling is illegal – even if you're sitting in your car, you can get a ticket for idling your engine. Turn off your engine to save gas and money.

GET A TUNE-UP

Tune-ups can make your car more fuel efficient while improving how well your car runs. Optimize your vehicle's performance by keeping your tires inflated to the right pounds per square inch (PSI) and rotated regularly. Properly inflated tires can improve gas mileage by 3.3% and at the same time reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

DROP EXTRA WEIGHT AND REDUCE WIND RESISTANCE

Avoid carrying non-essential heavy items such as tools and sports equipment. 100 pounds of extra weight reduces fuel economy by 2%. Roof racks and open windows at highway speeds will increase drag, thus decreasing the efficiency of your vehicle.

CHOOSE A HYBRID CAR

Hybrid vehicles are highly efficient (smaller engines, advanced aerodynamics, and lighter-weight materials), emit less greenhouse gases and save you money at the fuel pump. Also look into tax incentives for buying a hybrid.