

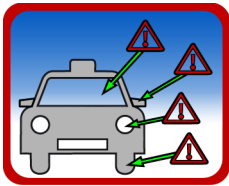
ECO-DRIVING SAFELY

FOR TAXIS

Think economically and environmentally!

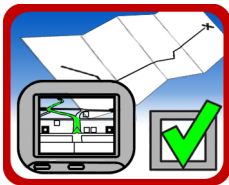
ECO-driving is not only an easy and cost-efficient way to reduce fuel consumption, greenhouse gases and accident rates, but is also an attitude and respect for society as a whole. In order to help drivers adjust their driving behaviour to different situations, the IRU has developed this checklist of smart, smooth and safe ECO-driving techniques.

BEFORE THE JOURNEY



Maintain your vehicle

Maintain proper engine oil and air filters to keep vehicles running efficiently. Use the appropriate fuel as recommended by the manufacturer to keep the vehicle engine clean and performing efficiently. Always consult the vehicle's owner manual for proper maintenance.



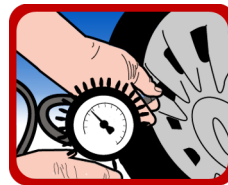
Use on-board devices

Use dynamic navigators to bypass congested routes and lead to less idling as nowadays many cars are fitted with an on-board navigation. An on-board computer may help to save time and take the right routes. Use car fuel saving devices such as on board computer to monitor the fuel consumption.



Travel "light"

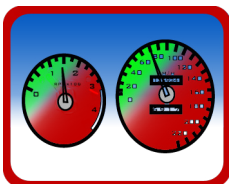
Unload as much as possible as soon as possible. Remove unnecessary weight from the vehicle.



Check your tyres

Keep tyres properly inflated at least to the tyre pressure recommended by the manufacturer (10 to 15 percent over recommended pressure saves fuel!). Check it frequently. This alone can reduce the average fuel consumption by 3-4%. Under-inflated tyres increase rolling resistance and increase fuel consumption. They also wear more rapidly. Check the vehicle's owner manual or the tyre pressure label for minimum cold tyre inflation pressure. Axle alignment on all axles and toe in / toe out on the steering axles should also be checked and kept as recommended by the manufacturer.

DURING THE JOURNEY



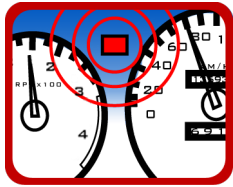
Drive at a steady speed

Try to maintain a steady speed by using the highest gear possible and by avoiding unnecessary acceleration and braking. The engine power to keep a steady speed is lower if you do not continuously brake and accelerate. Anticipate the traffic flow by looking ahead as far as possible. The cruise control on motorways helps smooth driving. Reduce speed in strong headwinds, heavy rain, snow fall and icy conditions.



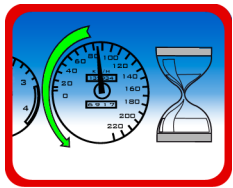
Accelerate and brake smoothly

Avoid fast starts and hard braking; they waste fuel and wear out some vehicle components more quickly, such as brakes and tyres. Maintain a safe distance between vehicles and anticipate traffic conditions to allow more time to brake and accelerate gradually.



Check engine lights

Today's vehicles have sophisticated onboard diagnostics (OBD) systems that continually monitor the operation of your vehicle. If the OBD alert light comes on, there is the possibility that your emissions are increased and your fuel economy is going down. Replacing a faulty sensor could result in a fuel economy improvement of as much as 40%. If the OBD light comes on, see your vehicle's maintenance expert for more information.



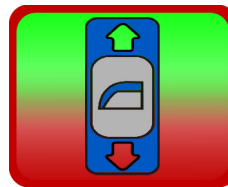
Decelerate smoothly

Every time you use the brakes, you waste energy. Try to use the vehicle's motion energy as much as possible. Use the engine brake to reduce speed when approaching a traffic light. Close to the traffic light, operate the brakes for a final standstill. This will also reduce wear on the brakes, lower exhaust emissions, cut off fuel supply and make the ride comfortable for your passengers.



Drive off from standstill – but always try to avoid stopping

When the traffic lights turn green, accelerate quickly, but try not to press down the acceleration pedal more than halfway. Shift up the gears as soon as possible. It is very efficient to shift from a fast pace to the highest gear: modern engines work more efficiently when a high engine load is used. On modern vehicles, use only the minimum number of gear changes: usually only 3 to 5 changes required from standstill to cruising speed.



Close windows at high speeds

Do not drive with the windows open unless you keep your speed under 30 km/h. Driving with the windows open at highway speeds increases aerodynamic drag on the vehicle and increases fuel consumption. Remove any article that impairs the vehicles streamline effect.



Minimise use of heating and air conditioning

Use heating and air conditioning selectively to reduce the load on the engine. Decrease your use of the air conditioner; it can help you save 10-15% of fuel. Park your vehicle in the shade.



No idling

Today's engines generally do not need a warm up. Start the vehicle immediately and gently drive away. Prolonged idling increases emissions and wastes fuel. Turn the engine off, when idling more than 30 seconds.

If possible, keep out of congested areas and find an alternative motorway solution (with the agreement of the customer) rather than through the city centre. This might take a few minutes longer, but will allow for savings on fuel consumption, less wear on brake linings, clutch plates and the gearbox, all while minimising driver fatigue and reducing the risk of accidents.

Try to avoid unnecessary overtaking on highways. It does not usually speed up your trip, but causes more fuel consumption and congestion.

Drivers, don't hesitate to take special ECO-driving courses!