Celebrate Black Energy Awareness Month (BEAM) with the American Association of Blacks in Energy.

Welcome to our special spotlight on the important Black Energy Awareness Month, also known as BEAM. From heating up your home, to preparing for homework and dinner each night, we continue to be surrounded by numerous sources of energy. Fuel for our cars, kinetic energy for our daily lives, it all works together.

Each year, in communities around the country, our national chapters celebrate the great contributions of minorities, students and professionals and discuss the important role energy plays in our daily lives.

During the month of October, we invite you to stop by our site often and see candid feature PROFILES, get the SKINNY on key TIPS about the business, and FACTS about the DYNAMIC world of – ENERGY AWARENESS – what we believe is a driving economic force in our communities all over the country, impacting the world.

visit: http://www.aabe.org

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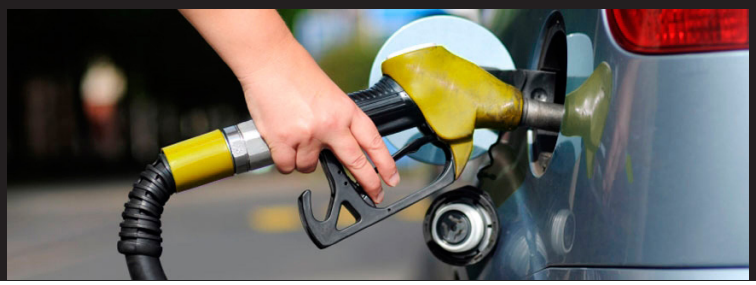

Fuel Saving and Vehicle Tips

1. Avoid High Speeds
As your speed increases, your aerodynamic drag increases in an exponential fashion. Driving 62 mph (100 km/h) vs. 75 mph (120 km/h) will reduce fuel consumption by about 15%.

2. Do Not Accelerate or Brake Hard
By anticipating the traffic and applying slow steady acceleration and braking, fuel economy may increase by as much as 20%.

3. Keep Tires Properly Inflated
Keep tire air pressure at the level recommended by your vehicle manufacturer. A single tire under inflated by 2 PSI, increases fuel consumption by 1%.

4. Use A/C Sparingly
When the air conditioner is on it puts extra load on the engine forcing more fuel to be used (by about 20%). The defrost position on most vehicles also uses the air conditioner.

5. Keep Windows Closed
Windows open, especially at highway speeds, increase drag and result in decreased fuel economy of up to 10%.

6. Service Vehicle Regularly
Proper maintenance avoids poor fuel economy related to dirty air filters, old spark plugs or low fluid levels.

7. Use Cruise Control
Maintaining a constant speed over long distances often saves gas.

8. Avoid Heavy Loads
Remove the sand bags from your trunk in the spring and pack lightly for long trips.

9. Avoid Long Idles
If you anticipate being stopped for more than 1 minute, shut off the car. Restarting the car uses less fuel than letting it idle for this time.

10. Purchase a Fuel Efficient Vehicle
When buying a new vehicle examine the vehicle's rated fuel efficiency. Usually choosing a small vehicle with a manual transmission will provide you with great fuel economy.

11. Learn where to find the cheap gas

In most regions, you will find the cheapest gas prices in the same areas. In major metro areas, this seems to be outlying suburbs. It is best to avoid affluent areas when looking for a cheap fill. Gas stations near major freeway exits can be more expensive than stations further away.

12. How can I save money on gas?
With gas prices reaching record levels, it's more important than ever to keep tabs on your gas spending. One of the easiest ways to save money on gas is to shop around, by using this web site.

13. Find the right type of station
Some stations are always the price leaders in the area. Often times wholesale clubs, grocery stores or department stores with gas stations will sell gas close to cost or at a loss (loss leader), in order to get people into the stores where they may buy other, higher margin items. Some of these places require memberships. The cost of the membership must be factored into the price. Some of these stations also give you a credit for in store purchases when you fill up with gas. This can result in considerable indirect savings. Service stations, with an auto repair shop on site, often have more expensive gas.

14. Find other ways to get to work
One of the best ways to lower your fuel expenses is to carpool to work. You can reduce the inconvenience by sharing a ride with someone that works at the same company, and lives near your home. Many companies have a highin board, or Intranet web site where you may be able to find someone to carpool with.

15. Another great option is public transportation.
Passes are usually available at discounted rates. Although you have to pay to use public transportation, is usually much less expensive than driving to work, and paying for parking (where applicable).
Some other options are walking, or riding bike to work. Both of these options have the added benefit of giving you exercise.

Sources:
http://www.gasbuddy.com/gb_tips.aspx
http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.jsp
http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/fcv_PEM.shtml

THERMOSTAT TIPS

You can save money on your heating and cooling bills by simply resetting your thermostat when you are asleep or away from home. You can do this automatically without sacrificing comfort by installing an automatic setback or programmable thermostat.

Using a programmable thermostat, you can adjust the times you turn on the heating or air-conditioning according to a pre-set schedule. Programmable thermostats can store and repeat multiple daily settings (six or more temperature settings a day) that you can manually override without affecting the rest of the daily or weekly program.

LIMITATIONS FOR HOMES WITH HEAT PUMPS, ELECTRIC RESISTANCE HEATING, STEAM HEAT, AND RADIANT FLOOR HEATING

Programmable thermostats are generally not recommended for heat pumps. In its cooling mode, a heat pump operates like an air conditioner; so turning up the thermostat (either manually or with a programmable thermostat) will save energy and money. But when a heat pump is in its heating mode, setting back its thermostat can cause the unit to operate inefficiently, thereby canceling out any savings achieved by lowering the temperature setting. Maintaining a moderate setting is the most cost-effective practice.

FURNITURE

Furniture will block natural air movement; so do not place pieces in front of or below your thermostat. Also make sure your thermostat is conveniently located for programming.

FURNACE

A common misconception associated with thermostats is that a furnace works harder than normal to warm the space back to a comfortable temperature after the thermostat has been set back, resulting in little or no savings. In fact, as soon as your house drops below its normal temperature, it will lose energy to the surrounding environment more slowly.

The lower the interior temperature, the slower the heat loss. So the longer your house remains at the lower temperature, the more energy you save, because your house has lost less energy than it would have at the bulleter temperature

ULTRA ENERGY EFFICIENT DESIGN

Ultra-efficient home design combines state-of-the-art, energy-efficient construction, appliances, and lighting with commercially available renewable energy systems, such as solar water heating and solar electricity. By taking advantage of local climate and site conditions, designers can incorporate passive solar heating and cooling and energy-efficient landscaping strategies.

Energy-efficient windows, doors, and skylights—also known as fenestration—can help lower a home's heating, cooling, and lighting costs.

TYPES OF STORM WINDOWS

Interior storm windows offer greater convenience than exterior storm windows. They're easier to install and remove; they require less maintenance because they're not exposed to the elements; and, because they seal tightly to the primary window, they're more effective at reducing air infiltration.

LIGHTING

Energy-efficient light bulbs are available today and could save you about $50 per year in energy costs when you replace 15 traditional incandescent bulbs in your home.
Compared to traditional incandescent, energy-efficient light bulbs such as halogen incandescents, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), and light emitting diodes (LEDs) have the following advantages:
Typically use about 25%-80% less energy than traditional incandescents, Can last 3-25 times longer.

COOL ROOFS

Cool roofs use solar-reflective surfaces to maintain lower roof temperatures. Standard or dark roofs can reach temperatures of 150°F or more in the summer sun. A cool roof under the same conditions could stay more than 50°F cooler.
A cool roof can benefit a building and its occupants by:
Reducing energy bills by decreasing air conditioning needs
Improving indoor comfort for spaces that are not air conditioned
Decreasing roof temperature, which may extend roof service life
If you are building a new home, you can decide during the planning phase what type of roof to install and whether it should be a cool roof. If you want to convert an existing roof into a cool roof, you have three basic options:

Coat the roof

Re-cover it with a new waterproofing surface
Tear off the existing roof and replace it with a new one.

WATER CONSERVATION QUICK FACTS FOR THE HOME

Did you know the water dripping from your air conditioner and rainwater are cost-saving resources for watering your plants? In addition, water used to boil eggs or steam vegetables can also be recycled.

Use a vegetable brush and spray water in short bursts to conserve during food preparation.
Defrost foods overnight in the refrigerator as an alternative to using running water. Also consider using your microwave or placing wrapped food in cold water.
Limit dishwasher use to full loads. Use a rubber spatula to scrape dishes clean to limit pre-rinse. Let really dirty pans or dishes soak to speed washing and remember that most newer dishwashers don't require pre-rinsing.

Avoid using your garbage disposal and compost leftovers fruits and vegetables.
Low flow faucets and showerheads can reduce consumption by more than 50%.
Install a low-flow toilet as they need only 1.6 gallons per flush, saving
thousands of gallons per year. Unlike earlier models, low flow toilets available today receive high marks from consumers for overall performance.
Take quick showers as an alternative to long baths to reduce water use. Limit the total time in the shower to a maximum of five minutes.
If you must take baths, be sure to only fill the tub halfway.
Don't use the toilet as a trash can. Every flush you eliminate can save between two and seven gallons of water.

Use a glass for rinse water when brushing teeth instead of letting the faucet run. Shave the same way. An electric razor also saves water.
Fix leaking faucets and toilets. Research has shown that an average of 8% (or more) of all home water use is wasted through leaks. Test for a leaking toilet by lifting the lid off the toilet tank and putting a few drops of food coloring into the bowl. Wait a few minutes, look in the bowl, if the food coloring has made its way there, you have a leak.
Wash only full loads of laundry. You'll not only save water, but energy as well.
Consider purchasing a new water- and energy- efficient clothes washer. Look for the Energy Star labeled products and save more water in one year than a person drinks in a lifetime. These units create less wear and tear on clothes, clean better, and use less detergent. Some electric utilities offer rebates for qualified models. See www.energystar.gov for more information.
Use brooms, squeegees and dry vacuum cleaners to clean surfaces before washing with water.

Source: Georgia Environmental Protection Division
http://www.gaepd.org

WATER CONSERVATION QUICK FACTS FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

Inform, your employees and co-workers about water scarcity issues and impacts of water conserving practices not only saves water, but also saves money (on operation and production costs.)

Educated employees will be able to identify problems before they become serious and can help think innovatively about ways to conserve or reuse water within the facility.
Read your water meter daily, weekly or monthly to record your average water consumption. Water meters generally are located near the front of your property.
It is suggested that the meters are read and recorded at the beginning of shutdown and at the recommencement of operations. Any water use during shutdown can be attributed to leaks and the source should be investigated.
If your business has multiple buildings or processes, to help you fully understand your water use, install a separate meter at each location.
Establish a baseline use. Your water and sewer bills can help you understand your historical water use.

To establish a baseline for your average daily consumption, divide your monthly or bi-monthly bill by the number of days in that billing period. This baseline can only be used for comparison if business volumes do not fluctuate.

For businesses that have seasonal or growth demands, measuring water use per unit of production is the best way to assess your water efficiency. For example if your business grows, your total water use may increase even if you have implemented water saving initiatives.
Identify and fix leaks. The easiest way to identify when leaks occur is to understand when your use rises above a base level of use for your operations.
If you have identified that there may be a leak on your property, you need to take steps to locate and repair the leak.

To locate leaks, look for any trend of increased usage that cannot be associated with increased business through sub-meters.
Conduct regular inspections of equipment or areas where leaks could occur, like pipe-work joints, connections and fittings. Indications include dampness, rust marks or swelling boards. Significant leaks can often be detected by listening in the absence of other noise.
Check equipment. Worn, old or poorly maintained equipment can waste significant amounts of water.

Install monitoring or sub-meter systems that alert you when excessive flows or reduced pressures breach normal ranges.

For concealed or subsurface pipe-work, leakage detection companies can employ techniques such as pressure testing, flow monitoring and echo correlation.

Maximize the efficiency of your cooling tower and consider eliminating “once-through” cooling of equipment with municipal water by recycling the water flow to cooling towers or replacing it with air-cooled equipment. High volumes of water can be lost as water vapor while performing the cooling function.

Install water efficient equipment such as ultra-low flow toilets, faucet aerators, high efficiency shower-heads, water-conserving ice makers.
As appliances and equipment wear out, replace them with water-saving models.
Use washing equipment that has aerated spray nozzles equipped with shut-off valves.
Fit hoses with high pressure, low volume nozzles with shut-off valves.
Where possible, mop floors rather than hosing.
Switch from ‘wet’ carpet cleaning methods, such as steam cleaning, to ‘dry’ or ‘spot cleaning’ (powder methods).

Sweep parking areas rather than hosing, unless it’s required for health regulations.
Reconsider the need to wash building exteriors or other outside structures.
Reduce frequency of cleaning external equipment and floors where possible.
Change window cleaning schedule from ‘regular’ to ‘as required’ and use squeegees to clean the windows.

Via: Georgia Environmental Protection Agency www.ConserveWaterGeorgia.net

THANK YOU!

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