

## Drive Green

Did you know that the transportation sector accounts for 19 per cent of Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas emissions? We all need to do our part to preserve the health of our environment. The Central Vehicle Agency (CVA) would like to lessen the impact government vehicles have on the environment and reduce government's environmental footprint. There are several ways that you can help! Just read below:

## Get into a lean, green driving machine

Choose the vehicle best suited to your work needs. Do you need an SUV to drive to Saskatoon, or would a car suffice? When making your decision, take into consideration fuel consumption and other environmental costs.

CVA has developed the [Guide to Vehicle Replacement and Right-Sizing](#). Take a look and consider your option when choosing your CVA vehicle.

## Tips for Safe and Sustainable Driving

Did you know that for every 10 kilometres per hour (km/h) you go over 100km/h, fuel efficiency drops by 10 per cent? There are many factors you can control to optimize fuel consumption, increase the vehicle's life span, and reduce the overall environmental impact of your CVA vehicle:

- **Don't idle.** Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than re-starting the engine. Turn off the engine if the vehicle is going to be parked more than 60 seconds. Car starters will not be installed on CVA vehicles, as they promote excessive idling.
- **Winter driving warm up.** Once a vehicle is running, the best way to warm it up is to drive it. With computer-controlled, fuel-injected engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days. Ensure windows are adequately defrosted before driving away.
- **Limit your need for speed.** Speeding, rapid accelerating, and hard-braking reduce fuel efficiency. Leave 20 minutes earlier to avoid rushing and the temptation to speed.
- **Drive smoothly.** Avoid quick starts and abrupt stops to help maximize your fuel mileage. Use your cruise control on the highway when it's safe to keep a steady pace.
- **Be tire smart.** Under-inflated tires can reduce the tire life by 10,000 km, and increase fuel consumption by up to four per cent. Check tire pressure regularly and routinely balance and rotate your tires.
- **Plan short trips.** Travelling to places less than five km produces the most greenhouse gas emissions because the engine and pollution control systems never reach peak operating temperatures. Combine various tasks into one trip to reduce fuel emissions from 50 to 90 per cent.
- **Lighten your load.** Every extra 100 pounds reduces fuel efficiency by up to two per cent. Keep the trunk clean and remove any snow and ice from the vehicle.
- **Car pool.** When possible, car pool with others to reduce unnecessary travel.
- **Fuel up, not over.** Do not overfill fuel. To prevent fuel spillage and leakage, never fill the fuel tank to the brim.
- **Roll 'em up.** Close windows when driving. Use the flow-through ventilation system.

## **Why is it important to be aware of environmental costs?**

In 2011, the Government of Saskatchewan spent \$12 million on 10.5 million litres of fuel for fleet vehicles. If all CVA operators reduced individual fuel consumption by 10 per cent, this would result in savings of \$1.2 million each year, and over one million litres of fuel!

Considering the environment when choosing and operating your CVA vehicle not only saves taxpayers' dollars, it also positively affects our environment and our health. Being conscious of the environment is a small step each of us can take to help make a big difference in sustaining the health of our province.

## **Driving Awareness and Training Program**

The Driver Awareness and Training Program focuses on factors that drivers can substantially control and that have the most impact on fuel economy. As part of this program, CVA has identified low-cost, online, green defensive driving course that will be offered to drivers who wish to improve their driving behaviours.