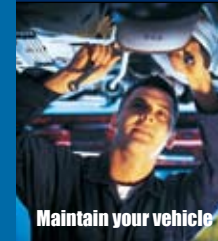


50 WAYS

you can
do something...
for cleaner air to protect our climate



Maintain your vehicle



Take the bus



Refuel after 6 p.m.

do something...



for healthier air in Central Texas

Today

AUSTIN ENERGY

Air Quality Program
721 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78704
512/482-5341

www.cityofaustin.org/airquality



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Austin's Community-Owned Electric Utility

do something...

for cleaner air to protect our climate

Growth in Central Texas has increased air pollution worries, and now unhealthy levels of ozone and greenhouse gases demand our attention. This guide offers 50 SUGGESTIONS for reducing polluting activities in our daily lives.

Tip #12 for reducing air pollution:



DRIVE LESS

On road vehicles account for as much as 1/3 of the air pollution in Central Texas.

**REDUCING AIR POLLUTION
WILL REQUIRE ALL OF US
TO WORK TOGETHER.**



Do your share for CLEANER AIR

IN CENTRAL TEXAS OUR AIR QUALITY PROBLEM IS THE FORMATION OF OZONE. It irritates our lungs and eyes, gives us headaches, and can even damage plants and crops.

Ozone, the main component in smog, forms when nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) combine and “cook” in the sun. Some ozone exists at all times, but it can reach unhealthy levels under certain conditions (hot, sunny days with little wind). Man-made sources of NOx and VOCs include internal combustion engines, electric generation units, industrial facilities, and many everyday activities such as painting and pumping gas.

On a larger scale, central Texas is experiencing growth in industry, agriculture and transportation, which produces vast quantities of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide. Carbon Dioxide and other greenhouse gases released into our atmosphere cause a gradual increase of the temperature of the Earth’s atmosphere. The result is “climate change,” which is harmful and disruptive to all life on our planet.

The good news is there are actions we can all take to reduce the concentration of ozone, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in our atmosphere and protect our climate. Consider making some of the suggestions in this brochure a daily habit. You not only help Central Texans breathe easier, but you’ll be doing your share to preserve and protect our planet.



Maintain your
VEHICLE



Check your
TIRES



Replace the
AIR FILTER



Seal your
TANK

do something...
in your car

1. **MAINTAIN YOUR VEHICLE.** One vehicle in bad repair can produce 28 times as much pollution as one vehicle in good repair.
2. **CHECK YOUR TIRES.** Low tire pressure increases road friction and can waste up to 5% of a tank of gas.
3. **GET A TUNE UP.** Perform all maintenance according to the manufacturer's schedule. A poorly tuned engine wastes 10-20% of the fuel it uses.
4. **CHANGE YOUR OIL.** Clean oil reduces engine friction and increases gas mileage.
5. **REPLACE THE AIR FILTER.** A clogged air filter can cause a 10% increase in fuel consumption.
6. **STOP REFUELING WHEN THE GAS PUMP CLICKS.** Overfilling your tank releases fumes into the air, canceling the benefits of the pump's anti-pollution devices.
7. **SEAL YOUR TANK.** Closing your gas tank tightly prevents gas from evaporating from your tank.
8. **REFUEL AFTER 6 P.M.** Fueling your tank in cooler temperatures means less formation of ozone.
9. **BUY GREEN, DRIVE CLEAN.** Purchasing a cleaner burning more fuel-efficient car produces less air pollution and saves you money on gas.
10. **COMBINE ERRANDS.** Plan ahead to accomplish lots of errands in one trip. You'll reduce your car trips, and save gas and time.
11. **TRACK YOUR GAS MILEAGE.** Sudden changes in your gas mileage can signal needed maintenance. Fix engine problems early to save money and travel safely.

do something...

on your commute

12. **DRIVE LESS.** On road vehicles account for as much as 1/3 of the air pollution in Central Texas.
13. **TAKE THE BUS.** Relax, and let someone else drive. Public transportation is inexpensive and convenient.
14. **CARPOOL OR VANPOOL.** Sharing rides can cut commuting costs in half or more.
15. **RIDE YOUR BIKE.** It takes about one day's wages to pay for the cost of a bike, compared to 6 weeks to pay for a car (based on 1998 U.S. Census).
16. **WALK.** It's free!
17. **AVOID CONGESTION.** Driving during off-peak times can make your commute smoother and faster.
18. **SLOW DOWN.** At high speeds you burn more fuel for each mile you drive.
19. **DON'T IDLE YOUR ENGINE.** Idling wastes gas and produces unnecessary air pollution.
20. **BANK BY PHONE OR INTERNET.** It'll save you the trip and the gas money.
21. **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO.** Checking a map or phoning ahead to confirm your destination saves you gas and time.
22. **DRIVE SMOOTHLY.** Avoid jackrabbit starts, which use up to 50% more gas than a smooth, gradual acceleration.



CARPOOL or VANPOOL



Ride your BIKE



WALK



Take the BUS



SLOW DOWN

do something...

at home

23. **SAVE ENERGY.** When we use less energy, power plants burn fewer fossil fuels and release fewer chemicals that form ozone.
24. **GO FLUORESCENT.** Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs, especially in porch lights and other fixtures that stay on longer.
25. **MAINTAIN YOUR HOME.** Save energy with proper insulation and ductwork.
26. **SET YOUR THERMOSTATS.** Save even more by keeping thermostats at or above 78° in the summer and below 68° in the winter.
27. **SAVE WATER.** It takes a lot of energy to produce potable water and pump it to your home, so install low-flow shower heads, toilets and front-loading washing machines.
28. **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.** It reduces consumption of natural resources and often takes less energy than making new products.
29. **USE AN ELECTRIC OR PUSH LAWMOWER.** Mowing with a gas-powered mower for just one hour can produce as much pollution as driving your car 100 miles.
30. **CHOOSE LOW-VOC PAINTS.** Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are a precursor to ozone. You help the air when you choose alternatives to high VOC producing products.
31. **GROW GREEN.** Reduce year-round water consumption and its related energy costs by xeriscaping your yard.
32. **LIGHTEN UP.** When it's time to replace your roof, choose light-colored, reflective roofing materials. It can reduce your energy consumption by 40%.
33. **PLANT MORE TREES.** They reduce the temperature of the surrounding air, provide shade and absorb solar energy.
34. **AVOID LIGHTER FLUID.** Try an electric or chimney-style starter to get your charcoals glowing on the grill.

do something...

at the office

35. **TELECOMMUTE.** Working from home can save you a trip.
36. **TELECONFERENCE.** Holding meetings by phone or video saves you a trip.
37. **WORK AN ALTERNATIVE SCHEDULE.** Flexible hours let you shift your commute to out of peak driving times and avoid traffic.
38. **SET CONVENIENT MEETING LOCATIONS.** Choose meeting locations so that all attendees drive the shortest distance possible.



39. **CARPOOL TO MEETINGS.** Save gas by sharing a ride.
40. **WALK TO LUNCH OR BROWN BAG YOUR LUNCH.** Avoid driving during the day.
41. **USE LESS PAPER.** Don't print every email you receive, and be sure to make double-sided copies whenever you can. Using resources wisely can increase profits while reducing air pollution.
42. **LET YOUR COMPUTER SLEEP.** Set the sleep function on your computer and turn off the monitor when you're away from your desk. Saving energy reduces air pollution.
43. **CASH IN.** Take advantage of business incentives to reduce ozone-forming emissions.

do something...

to clear the air



44. **KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OZONE ACTION DAY ALERTS**
in your favorite weather report.
45. **TALK.** Spread the word to friends and family about what they can do to help prevent ground-level ozone.
46. **BREAK YOUR ROUTINE.** Be willing to try something better for the air.
47. **BE A ROLE MODEL.** Help a coworker find a bus route, or pass along a helpful phone number or website.
48. **KNOW THE ISSUES.** Elect officials who share our vision for cleaner air.
49. **PITCH IN.** The more healthy-air choices you make, the sooner we can all breathe easy.
50. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE.** Individual choices add up to decide our future.