



# Ozone Action Day Tips

**Limit driving.** Try sharing a ride to work or school. Walk or ride a bicycle. Don't drive to lunch.

**Pick one day a week to leave your car at home.** If only 1% of America's car owners did this, it would save millions of gallons of gasoline a year and keep many pollutants out of the atmosphere.

**Combine trips whenever possible.** Go from home, to the bank, to the store, and to the post office all in one trip. Stopping at home in between errands means more cold starts and more emissions.

**Avoid long periods of unnecessary idling.** While waiting at the drive-through window or waiting for a friend, turn your engine off—you will save fuel and keep the air cleaner. (Did you know that idling a car for more than 30 seconds produces more ozone forming emission than turning off and restarting the engine?)

**Try to wait until late in the day to refuel your vehicle.** The vapors that escape into the air bake in the heat and can add to ground-level ozone formation.

**Don't top off your gas tank** when refueling and avoid spilling gas when you are at the fuel pump.

**Make sure gas caps** on your vehicles, gas cans, and maintenance equipment are replaced when missing or when their threads are stripped.

**When going on a trip, drive your newest car.** Chances are it is equipped with better emission controls than your older model.

**Keep your vehicle properly tuned.** Follow the manufacturer's suggested maintenance schedule.

**Keep your tires properly inflated.** A well-tuned car with properly inflated, balanced, and rotated tires uses less gasoline and emits fewer pollutants than the alternative.

**Park in the shade** to avoid evaporative emissions from your sun-heated gas tank while parked.

**Turn off lights and appliances when not in use.** If we use less electricity at home, power plants burn less fossil fuel, and create less pollution in the air.

**Avoid using gasoline-powered lawn equipment** until late in the day. One hour of use produces as much ozone-creating emissions as 11 hours of driving a car.

**Avoid using oil/solvent based paints,** degreasers, or lighter fluids.

**Opt for water-based** cleaning and painting products whenever possible.

**Apply paint with rollers and brushes** instead of sprays; it cuts down on fumes.

**Enjoy summer barbecues,** but avoid using charcoal lighter fluid.

**Consider natural gas,** propane, or electric grills as alternatives next time you replace your backyard or patio barbecue.

**Maintain your propane tanks** according to specifications. Periodic check ups and maintenance ensure there are no leaks.

**Consider manual or electric-powered** lawn and garden maintenance equipment when replacing your gasoline-powered equipment.

**Treat your personal watercraft** and other leisure items just like your cars. Perform proper maintenance and avoid long periods of idling. You will reap the rewards of cost-efficiency and clean air.

## Ozone Action Day!

Source: South East Texas Regional Planning Commission. *Ozone Action Tips*. Retrieved June 21, 2005, from <http://www.setrpc.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&ID=124>.