

HOW CAN WE DRIVE BETTER?

Currently, 13% of Canada's total carbon emissions are from cars and trucks on the road (Ecodriver, 2019). Not only that, but about half of the average Canadian's personal carbon emissions come from driving. (Ecodriver, 2019). That is a very significant portion of the emissions, but it is not surprising given the average car emits one tonne of carbon dioxide every 5,000 kilometres. There are driving techniques that can help reduce emissions. Accelerating gently reduces the amount of fuel used compared to accelerating quickly. Maintaining a steady speed is also more fuel efficient. Avoiding high speeds also uses less fuel. Most cars are most efficient when going 50-80km/h. Even slightly deflated tires can also increase the car's fuel consumption.

WHAT ARE SOME BETTER ALTERNATIVES TO DRIVING?

Carpooling is beneficial for many reasons. It reduces traffic, costs, and most importantly, it keeps more cars off the road and is therefore better for the environment. One step even further is using public transportation like buses or trains. Those are even better because they can transport many more people and keep that many more cars off the road. Walking, running or biking also have many benefits. These produce zero carbon emissions, are cheap and convenient, and are good for your health. Electric cars are much better for the environment, and have zero emissions. Hybrid or fuel efficient vehicles are another great option. Hybrid vehicles use two energy sources: a gasoline engine and a battery which powers an electric motor, so carbon emissions are much less significant. Smaller cars or cars that are designed for fuel efficiency can also be much better for the environment.

ECO-FRIENDLY TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is one of the biggest contributors to carbon dioxide emissions. How can we find better ways to travel?

