

EcoTrekker

[Top 100 Resources for Conscientious Consumers](#)

Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 10:06am by admin

By Jessica Hupp

These days, saving money isn't the only thing shoppers are worried about. Now, consumers are very aware of the way their shopping affects the world, and there are a number of resources out there designed to help make responsible consuming easier. Here, we've compiled 100 of these resources, from shopping directories to sources of information.

Networks

Join these networks to get an ongoing look at what you can do to make your consumption more responsible.

1. [Care2](#): Find news, other conscientious consumers, and more in the Care2 network.
2. [The Sierra Club](#): This group protects the planet while offering lots of fun outings for members.
3. [Responsible Purchasing Network](#): This network offers consultants and assistance for making your purchases more responsible.
4. [Buy Wisely Forum](#): Visit this forum to share and get ideas for conscientious consuming.
5. [Families for Conscious Living](#): Join this site to get newsletters, tips, and more resources for conscious living.
6. [The Simple Living Network](#): This network is full of resources, community services, and information.
7. [The EnviroLink Network](#): Stay on top of environmental news and resources with this network.
8. [Eco-Portal](#): Find tips, news and more information on environmental sustainability in this source.
9. [Earth Forums](#): This forum is home to an earth conscious directory full of resources for eco-friendly shopping.

Where to Shop

Whether you're looking for organic clothing, or a goat to send to a third-world country, you'll find what you're looking for in these online stores.

10. [Made By Survivors](#): The hand-made products in this store are created by survivors of human trafficking.
11. [No Sweat](#): This store features union-made, sweatshop-free apparel.

12. [**The American Environmental Health Foundation**](#): This foundation researches chemical sensitivity, and sells environmentally safe products.
13. [**Oxfam America Unwrapped**](#): On this site, you can buy sheep, trees, school uniforms, and more as a gift.
14. [**Littlearth**](#): Shop eco-friendly for stylish clothing and accessories, and even sportswear for fans of the NFL and NHL.
15. [**ReProduct**](#): Buy reusable greeting cards and paper products from this company that focuses on eliminating waste and protecting the environment.
16. [**Tom's Shoes**](#): When you buy a pair of comfortable walking shoes from Tom's Shoes, a child in need will get a pair as well.
17. [**Alternative Gifts**](#): With this site, you can send a life-giving gift in honor of a loved one.
18. [**Gaiam**](#): Get supplies and information for sustainable living on Gaiam.
19. [**Planet Squared**](#): Get a dose of environmentally friendly culture on this site that sells non-toxic, recycled music, art, and furniture.
20. [**Greenfeet**](#): Find responsible home items at this store. You can even set up a gift registry.
21. [**Real Goods**](#): Get solar energy and off-the-grid living supplies from this outlet.
22. [**Abundant Earth**](#): This environmental super store offers a number of environmentally sensitive products, plus a charitable giving program.

Directories

Find even more socially and environmentally friendly stores, services, and associations through these directories.

23. [**eConscious Market**](#): In this market, you'll find socially responsible goods and can choose a charity of your choice to receive 50% of the net profits from your purchase.
24. [**Conscious Choice Directory**](#): This directory offers links to professional services, products, and more.
25. [**Happy Hippie**](#): In this directory, you'll find eco-friendly products.
26. [**Eco Business Links**](#): This green directory is powered 100% by wind energy and offers thousands of reviewed websites.
27. [**Green People**](#): Here you'll find eco-friendly products like organic food, health and beauty items, and even supplies for pets and babies.
28. [**Pristine Planet**](#): Who says responsible has to be expensive? Get the best deal with this eco-friendly comparison shopping site.
29. [**Socially Responsible Directory**](#): This directory offers books, shopping resources, and more.
30. [**Responsible Purchasing Network Directory**](#): Check out this directory for network-approved responsible sellers and members.
31. [**Buy Indie**](#): This portal highlights independently-owned retailers.
32. [**Green Matters**](#): Find businesses that support the environment and offer green alternatives in this directory.

33. [Conscious Consumer Marketplace](#): In this marketplace, you'll find online and local sources for responsible products.

Certifications & Assessments

When you're shopping for big ticket items like building materials and appliances, look for these certifications to be sure you're making a responsible choice.

34. [Eco-labels center](#): Visit this resource from Consumer Reports to find out what the labels on your products really mean.
35. [EPEAT](#): The Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool will help you determine how responsible your new computer is.
36. [Energy Star](#): When buying appliances and other home items, look for the Energy Star seal.
37. [National Assessment of Tap Water Quality](#): Check out this database to check out your water quality.
38. [USDA Organic](#): Learn more about the USDA Organic label on this site.
39. [Green Seal](#): Use Green Seal products and services to ensure you're shopping responsibly.
40. [EcoLogo](#): Canadian consumers can look for the EcoLogo for environmentally responsible products.
41. [Forest Stewardship Council](#): FSC certified members practice good forest management.

Conscientious Finance

Make sure that your investments are responsible by using these conscientious finance tools and groups.

42. [Dow Jones Sustainability Group Index](#): Use this group's methodology to find some of the best sustainability-driven companies to invest in.
43. [Community Investing Center](#): Learn how to get started with community investing through this site.
44. [Kiva](#): Invest in Kiva, and you'll give 3rd-world entrepreneurs the funds they need to start a small business.
45. [Green Money Journal](#): Stay on top of the latest in green investment with this publication.
46. [SocialFunds](#): This personal finance site is dedicated to socially responsible investing.
47. [Social Investment Forum](#): This forum will teach you how to make a difference with your investments.
48. [The Blue Fund](#): This mutual fund's portfolio is full of companies with social responsibility.
49. [PAX World Mutual Funds](#): This mutual fund believes in sustainable investing.

Recycling, Repair, and Repurposing

With these resources, you can avoid sending your old consumables to the dump.

50. [Computer Upgrades](#): This guide from Consumer Reports will walk you through upgrading your computer instead of buying a new one.
51. [Freecycle](#): Give away unwanted stuff, or find some for yourself on this site.
52. [Creative ways to repurpose household items](#): Instead of tossing unwanted items, find a way to reuse them with this guide.
53. [Computer Repair](#): If you're thinking of tossing your broken computer, check out this guide first to see if you can repair it.
54. [Recycle](#): New American Dream discusses the merits of recycling in this article.
55. [Earth 911](#): Check out Earth 911 to find a recycling center near you and more.
56. [Computer recycling](#): This guide from Consumer Reports will tell you whether it's smarter to fix or recycle your computer.
57. [E-cycling Map](#): Find e-waste recycling centers with this map from the EPA.
58. [Computer Recycling Guide](#): With this resource, you'll learn everything you need to know about recycling your old computer.

Information Sources

Check in on your favorite retailers, learn more about responsible consuming, or just research more ways to be conscientious using these information sources.

59. [Federal Election Commission](#): Check out the FEC's website to find companies who make political donations.
60. [Consumerist](#): Hear all of the dirt about companies before you give them your money on the Consumerist.
61. [GreenSense](#): This site offers loads of resources for sustainable living, plus a marketplace full of responsible products.
62. [Corporate Contact](#): In this resource, you'll find contact information for popular retailers, plus a form letter that you can use to encourage these companies to adopt ethical business practices.
63. [Test Your Greenie IQ](#): Answer these questions about your daily life to find out how environmentally friendly you are.
64. [Green Maps](#): Use this map resource to find green living resources.
65. [Greener Choices](#): Consumer Reports' green site is full of wonderful information.
66. [Responsible Shopper](#): Check out Co-op America's research for responsible shopping here.
67. [The Story of Stuff](#): Check out this story to cast a critical eye on your shopping habits.
68. [EcoSeeker](#): Hit this green search engine to find all sorts of conscientious information.
69. [MAPLight](#): In this database, you'll be able to see the connection between corporate donations and legislative votes.
70. [Socially Responsible Consumer](#): Check out this site to get action alerts, company research, and more.
71. [CorpWatch](#): This site keeps tabs on corporations and reports on their policies.

72. [New American Dream](#): This site offers information on sweatshop-free clothing, and the practices of some of the world's biggest retailers.
73. [Public Integrity](#): Investigate lobbying dollars on this site.
74. [Open Secrets](#): This organization finds corporations that attempt to influence legislation and policy with donations.

Education

Teach your children the value of responsible consuming using these educational tools.

75. [Don't Buy It](#): This site from PBS will teach your kids how to become media savvy.
76. [What Kids Want That Money Can't Buy](#): Parents should read this book to learn how to educate children about responsible consumerism.
77. [Consumption Gumption](#): This game will test your child's awareness as a consumer.
78. [I Buy Different](#): Have your children check out this site to learn how buying different can have an impact.
79. [The Great Green Web Game](#): When your kids play this game, they'll learn how consumer choices affect the environment.

Articles & Guides

Get advice for buying, guidelines for ethical consumption, and more in these resources.

80. [Guide to Infant Formula](#): Check out this guide to learn which brands and packaging aren't best for your baby.
81. [Eating organic: Get the most bang for your buck](#): This guide will help you save money when shopping organic.
82. [Produce Guide](#): This guide ranks 43 popular fruits and vegetables based on their pesticide load.
83. [Skin Deep](#): Find out how toxic your cosmetics are with this database.
84. [Tips for Ethical Consumers](#): This list offers great tips for making more ethical purchases.
85. [Conscientious Consuming: What is it?](#): This article gives a clear definition of what conscientious consuming is.
86. [Conscientious Holiday Shopping Online](#): This guide touts the Internet as a great resource for conscientious shopping, and offers a number of links to responsible products.
87. [Find out about the companies you buy from](#): This article describes why it's important to research companies, and how you can go about doing so.
88. [What is Ethical Consumption?](#): This article details the concept of ethical consumption.
89. [Holiday Tips and Resources](#): In this article, you'll find great ideas for making your holiday gift giving more conscientious.

90. [Global Warming on the Road](#): Make your car more conscientious with this Consumer Reports guide.
91. [Six Tips to Help You Simplify Your Life](#): Use these tips to simplify and take the focus off of consuming.
92. [The Vocal Consumer](#): Here you'll find a guide to being a consumer with an opinion.
93. [How can you tell if it's really 'green'?](#): Follow this shopper's guide from MSNBC to spot products and services that aren't as responsible as they might seem to be.
94. [Global Warming at Home](#): Consumer Reports offers tips on how you can reduce your carbon emissions at home, and how much you'll save.
95. [Holiday Shopping Guide for the Conscientious Consumer](#): Check out this shopping guide to find conscientious gifts for everyone on your list, any time of year.
96. [Local Buying Guide](#): Check out these responsible buying guides for selected cities.
97. [Greencars](#): Check out this site to research environmentally friendly cars.
98. [Tips for Parenting in a Commercial Culture](#): Use this guide to help raise your children with informed ideas about consumerism.
99. [Conscientious Consuming: Why it Won't Work](#): Despite its title, this article explains why conscientious consuming is a powerful force.
100. [You Can Make a Difference, But Do Your Homework First](#): This guide debunks a number of misconceptions about conscientious consuming.

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[Top 50 Alternative Energy Blogs](#)

Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 10:26am by admin

With increasing frustration towards fossil fuels and a looming threat of global warming, alternative energy solutions are popular now more than ever. We have a number of options, including water, solar, and bioenergy power. These blogs discuss these solutions, and they're some of the best.

CleanTech

Clean technologies improve efficiency while reducing energy consumption, and they represent a variety of energy types. Learn all about them on these blogs.

1. [Clean Break](#): Read clean break to find out about what's going on in the clean technology market.
2. [Joel Makower](#): Read this blog from cleantech authority Joel Makower for information about sustainable business and green marketplaces.
3. [Cleantech Collective](#): Find cleantech blog posts from a variety of bloggers here.

4. [Cleantech Blog](#): Get commentary on new technologies, news and issues in the world of clean energy.
5. [Cleanergy](#): Cleanergy collects contributions from experts around the world for topics in renewable energy and clean tech.

Alternative Energy Investment

Alternative energy can't get far without monetary support. Check out these blogs that cater to investors who support alternative energy.

6. [Alternative Energy Stocks](#): Keep an eye on how alternative energy stocks are performing by reading this site.
7. [Alt Energy Investor](#): Find resources like stocks, prices, news and commentary on alternative energy investment here.
8. [Cleantech Investing](#): Read news and views from cleantech venture capitalist Rob Day on this blog.
9. [Biodiesel Investing](#): Learn about biodiesel stocks, headlines, and more on Biodiesel Investing.

Politics & Business

Political and business support is nearly as important as monetary support, as policies and business practices determine whether or not alternative energy solutions are actually implemented. Read these blogs to see how these arenas are reacting to alternative energy.

10. [Green Car Congress](#): Get the latest on green energy policies from this blog.
11. [Eco-Advantage](#): Find out how businesses are going green and enjoying profits from doing so.
12. [Hill Heat](#): Get the lowdown on science policy on Capitol Hill.
13. [Energize America](#): Energize America's goal is to free America from fossil fuels with the help of the US government.
14. [Environmental Leader](#): This blog offers corporate decision makers a source for information on green energy.

Renewable & Sustainable Energy

One of the things that makes fossil fuels such a huge problem is the fact that it's a depleting resource. Find out about resources and energy creation that can sustain itself indefinitely on these blogs.

15. [Renewable Energy](#): Renewable Energy is a source for energy news from around the globe.
16. [Heliotropic](#): Read Heliotropic to learn about renewable energy from Carl Lenox, an industry insider.
17. [WattHead](#): Get news and commentary on the transition into sustainable energy.
18. [Sustainablog](#): Read Sustainablog for news about sustainable energy and more.

19. [Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition](#): Learn about developments in ocean energy on this blog.
20. [Renew Energy Blog](#): Find news and commentary on anything and everything related to renewable energy here.
21. [Sustainable Research](#): Find out about new developments in research for sustainable energy with Sustainable Research.

Wind & Solar Energy

Wind and solar energy create power by harnessing resources that we take for granted: the sun and the wind. Learn how they work and about their increase in popularity on these blogs.

22. [Wind Energy Works!](#): Get the facts about wind energy development with this blog.
23. [Solar Buzz](#): Find solar energy news headlines on Solar Buzz.
24. [National Wind Watch](#): Visit National Wind Watch for the latest news in wind powered energy.
25. [Off-Grid](#): Get information about living off the grid on solar, wind, and hydro power here.

Biofuel

Biofuels use energy created from sources like corn, sugar cane and other biomasses. Learn about these ethanol and diesel solutions here.

26. [B100 Fuel](#): B100 asks the question, “What if the world replaced all diesel with B100 biodiesel?”
27. [Bioconversion](#): On Bioconversion, find out about biomass feedstock service providers and biomass-to-energy conversion technology R&D.
28. [Biopact](#): Biopact advocates a green energy pact between Europe and Africa.
29. [Big Biofuels Blog](#): Simon Robinson’s Big Biofuels Blog discusses the carbon footprint of biofuels, sugar cane ethanol, and lots of other topics.
30. [Deep Green Crystals](#): Read this blog to learn about biodiesel and check out a really cool dual fuel renewable vehicle.
31. [Unplugged Living](#): Visit Unplugged Living for a lifestyle that “freeload[s] off mother nature.”
32. [Ethablog](#): For news from the Brazilian ethanol industry, visit Ethablog.

Pure Alternative Energy

These bloggers go beyond specific solutions and industries, reporting on the alternative energy movement in its entirety.

33. [The Energy Blog](#): On The Energy Blog, you’ll find information about the energy revolution.

34. [It's The Only One We Have](#): Learn about hydro-electric power, hydrogen, efficiency, solar energy, wind power, and lots more at Robin Nixon's blog.
35. [Energy Refuge](#): This team of bloggers stays on top of alternative energy trends and other environmental news.
36. [Ecotality](#): Ecotality has loads of information about new energy solutions.
37. [IfEnergy](#): Check out IfEnergy for topics like solar cell phones, hydrogen fuel cell toy cars, and spray-on oil cells.
38. [Alternative Energy Blog](#): Get news and opinions on alternative energy sources like solar, wind, wave, geothermal, and more from this blog.
39. [TerraPass](#): Read Terra Pass for popular articles that focus on topics like cow power, nuclear power, and more.
40. [It's Getting Hot In Here](#): See what youth leaders have to say about alternative energy and global warming.
41. [The Oil Drum](#): The Oil Drum asks questions about the future of energy, taking a look at issues like suburbia and the Marie Antoinette Syndrome.
42. [Alternative Energy HQ](#): Check out this source for information on biodiesel, solar power, wind power, and more.
43. [Energy Bulletin](#): Energy Bulletin reports on peak energy and related news.
44. [Celsias](#): Celsias offers topics on biofuels, the carbon market, and even poop power.
45. [One Alternative](#): One Alternative reports on renewable energy and the steps we need to take to adapt to it.
46. [Groovy Green](#): Groovy Green is a resource for information on how we can find cleaner alternatives to power our lives.
47. [Juice](#): Juice reports on alternative fuels as they relate to developments, markets, and politics.
48. [AltEng](#): AltEng believes that peak oil will be a non-event because its increasing expense will naturally spur new technologies.
49. [Alternative Energy Today](#): Get the latest news on alternative energy here.
50. [Alternative Energy Info](#): This blog covers the latest trends and products in alternative energy.

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[**33 Tools to Get the Cheapest Gas Available**](#)

Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 9:55am by admin

We've all been complaining about high gas prices for awhile now, but this year's increases could really hit your wallet hard. Prices estimated to be [\\$4 a gallon](#) in some areas of the United States coupled with a possible economic recession presents a scary scenario for many Americans. Although we can't stop prices at the pump from skyrocketing, it is possible to find those sought-after spots around town that provide better deals. Below you'll find a list of tools that will aid you in your quest for the cheapest gas available.

Internet Tools

Plan ahead by checking out these sites or signing up for e-mail updates from those in the know.

1. [GasBuddy.com](#): Click on your U.S. state or Canadian province to start your search for cheap gas. Prices are tipped off by other visitors by the minute, so you're always the first to know. This website also lists national averages and the states or cities with the lowest prices.
2. [MapQuest Gas Prices](#): Search the lowest gas prices that are nearest to your home or office by typing in your address. MapQuest also lets you search by gasoline type: regular, diesel, or alternative fuels.
3. [GasPriceWatch.com](#): Gas prices are separated into three categories: green prices are less than 12 hours old, orange ones are less than 24 hours old, and red ones are more than 24 hours old. Users can type in a location or click and drag on the U.S. map to find nearby stations.
4. [MSN Autos](#): Enter your zip code to access a detailed map of the most economical gas stations in your area.
5. [GasWatch](#): Set up this widget on your website or blog to get updates on the cheapest gas available in your U.S. zip code. Once you've selected a particular gas station, click on the Map It button for directions.
6. [Gas 3.0](#): Mac users can download this widget which "provides a simple, elegant, easy to use method for finding the cheapest gas in the area, right from your Dashboard."
7. [Motor Trend](#): This popular car and racing website also features a gas price locator. Click on your state, county and city to find the lowest prices available for regular, plus, premium and diesel fuels.
8. [Fuel Gauge Report](#): The fuel gauge report from AAA reports local and national gas price averages each day. If you're planning a trip, type in your departure and destination cities to get a rough estimate of how much cash you'll need to spend on gas.
9. [FuelEconomy.gov](#): This government website has current gas price data for cities all over the country. Find cheap gas near you or read the helpful gas mileage tips to help you conserve the amount of gas you use.
10. [iGoogle Gadget](#): This post from Lifehacker discusses the Local Gas Prices iGoogle gadget that alerts Google account holders of the cheapest gas in their area.
11. [Automotive.com](#): This helpful site finds the cheapest gas in your area and compares it to the national average so that you can see how much you're really saving.
12. [Yourcitygasprices.com](#): Sites like [sanantoniogasprices.com](#) and [washingtongasprices.com](#) quickly link you to the cheapest prices in your city. Type in your city's name to see if you've got a site!
13. [InternetAutoGuide.com](#): InternetAutoGuide.com is another site that lets visitors find cheap gas prices in their neighborhoods.

14. [My WikiMap](#): GoogleMaps finds the cheapest gas prices for you when you enter your address or zip code.

Tools for your Phone

Sign up to receive text messages and alerts when gas prices drop.

15. gas@gasbuddy.com: Send a text to this e-mail address to get alerts sent right to your phone.
16. [FuelGo.com](#): FuelGo.com supports another texting service that lets you compare cheap gas prices when you send them your zip code.
17. [mobGas](#): Enter your cell phone number on this website to receive free SMS alerts once gas prices drop. You can also view maps of each neighborhood to help you locate each station.
18. [411Sync](#): Get connected with 411Sync, and access “your favorites at your fingertips.” The gas price locator is only one of several useful tools that this service provides.
19. [GetMobio](#): If you’re already a GetMobio user, add on the Gas app “that helps you get the cheapest gas in your surrounding area.”

When You’re Already in Your Car

Sleek navigation systems will help you find the cheapest gas around when you’re running on empty.

20. [MSN Direct](#): Get traffic reports gas prices, weather reports and movie times sent to your vehicle’s navigation system via a local FM signal.
21. [StreetPilot c580](#): This navigation system supports MSN Direct, and with a free trial, users can enjoy gas price locators and maps at no charge.
22. [nuvi 670](#): The nuvi 670 is a “widescreen personal travel assistant” that displays maps and gas prices all over the country so you’ll be able to fill up on the cheap even when you’re in a new place.
23. [nuvi 680](#): A slightly less expensive model than the nuvi 670, the 680 is still a trusty driving companion with its weather and traffic updates, gas price locators and easy-to-use “large touchscreen display.”

Awards Cards and Rebate Programs

These credit cards offer excellent rebate programs to help you save money each time you buy gas.

24. [Discover Open Road Card](#): The Discover Open Road card pays users 5% back on all gas purchases and all automotive purchases, including maintenance.
25. [AmEx Simply Cash Business Card](#): This card is specially designed for small business owners, but anyone who puts in a fair amount of driving time will reap the benefits. Members receive 5% back on all gas purchases.

26. [Chase Freedom Credit Card](#): This credit card is “the only credit card that gives you triple rewards where you spend the most.” If you’re constantly pumping gas, then you’re in luck.
27. [BP Visa Card](#): The BP Visa Card was voted the “best gasoline credit card of 2006” by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance. Earn double rebates for the first 60 days, and enjoy a 5% rebate at all BP locations after two months.
28. [Citi Drivers Edge Card](#): Earn up to 6% rebates on gas purchases plus additional rebates just for driving around town.

Articles

The following articles offer more tips and advice for finding the cheapest gas in your town. You might be surprised to see where you can get more great deals!

29. [12 Ways to Find Cheap Gas](#): This article from MSN Money provides a list of tools and ideas for finding cheap gas in your area, including stopping at Wal-Mart or the grocery store.
30. [Cheap Gas Prices](#): Find out why gas prices are continuing to rise with the information provided in this article. Readers will also find useful tips on locating the lowest prices in their area.
31. [How to Find Cheap Gas](#): eHow.com shares its secrets to getting cheap gas: visit low income areas, get gas at a wholesale club and more.
32. [Where to Find Cheap Gas and Gas Saving Tips](#): This article not only gives tips for finding cheap gas, it also encourages readers to research alternative fuel options.
33. [5 Ways to Instantly Find Cheap Gas](#): This popular article from LifeClever lists its top 5 tips for finding cheap gas.

For many Americans, driving to and from work, school and extracurricular activities is a necessity. Public transportation systems are lacking in most cities, and walking from suburbia into the city is out of the question. Paying too much for gas, though, doesn’t have to be your only choice, however. Consider using some of these tools and tips for finding the cheapest gas in your neighborhood, and you could wind up saving a bundle each year.

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[The Ultimate Guide to Hypermiling: 100 Driving and Car Tips and Resources](#)

Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 10:08am by admin

Hypermiling, or driving your car “in a [manner](#) that maximizes mileage,” has become more popular among drivers worldwide, as concerns over increasing gas prices and environmental issues heighten. Whether you’re trying to make a difference by helping the environment, or you’re just aiming to save a few more dollars at the pump each month,

check out this ultimate guide to hypermiling, which provides tips and resources for smart driving.

Driving Tips

Below is a list of hypermiling tips that drivers can implement while behind the wheel. We recommend practicing one or two tips at a time and gradually working your way up to the whole list so that you aren't overwhelmed.

1. **Drive a [stick shift](#):** If you're used to driving automatic, switching over to a stick shift might take a little practice, but it's definitely worth it. Once you have more control over the vehicle, you'll be able to master more hypermiling tricks.
2. **Stop speeding:** The harder you press the gas pedal, the more gas you're using. If you're driving over the speed limit, you might save time, but you're definitely wasting gas and money. Slow down a little if you can so that you're driving at or just below the actual speed limit.
3. **Coast instead of braking:** When you see a stop sign up ahead or a traffic light turning yellow, immediately take your foot off the gas and let your vehicle slow down by itself. If you wait until the last possible minute to brake, then you're wasting all the gas you used when you could have been slowing down.
4. **Cruise Control:** One automatic setting that actually helps hypermiling is cruise control, which prevents "you from "creeping" up in speed without realizing it," according to [Epistolary.org](#).
5. **Put your car in neutral:** Coasting with your car in neutral takes the burden off your gas pedal preventing you from wasting fuel. If you're not driving in heavy traffic, experiment with this effective money saver.
6. **Lighten the load:** The heavier your car is, the harder it has to work to propel itself forward. Empty out your trunk and backseat of ice chests, beach chairs, and other items that you're not using to lighten the load.
7. **"Shift slow and low":** The site [Epistolary.org](#) urges drivers to "shift slow and low," whenever possible to give your vehicle more mileage.
8. **Drafting:** This technique comes with a warning sign: according to many hypermiling experts, it is incredibly dangerous. A "deliberate form of [tailgating](#)," the forced auto stop involves turning off your car's engine and then following closely behind the vehicle in front of you "in order to take advantage of the reduced wind resistance in [the other car's] immediate wake."
9. **Find a route that's easy on your vehicle:** A story in the [Washington Post](#) discusses the benefits of "optimiz[ing] your route" when implementing hypermiling tricks. Instead of taking the scenic route to work, which could include more hills, twists, and dips, try finding a route that features level roads and less traffic lights or stop signs. Generally, "a longer route with better driving conditions" can use "less gas."
10. **[Park in the sun](#):** The blogger Joe Future believes that parking your vehicle in the sun is a hypermiling tip for two reasons: "On a cold day, parking in the sun keeps your car warmer." Also, a warmer car "will get to "auto-stop" mode faster than a

cold car, so you'll sit idling at fewer red lights while you're waiting for auto-stop to kick in."

11. **Roll down the windows if you're not on the highway:** After the scorching hot temperatures of the summer have retreated, stop blasting the air conditioner and roll down your windows. According to [Drive.com.au](#), "It is generally accepted that air-conditioning increases fuel consumption by about 10 percent but winding down the windows increases drag, which is also an enemy of good fuel consumption." If you're going to be on the highway, keeping your A/C on low is still a good idea, but if you're taking a joy ride, think about getting a little fresh air.
12. **Turn off the car before putting it in park:** [Joe Future](#) suggests turning off your vehicle before putting it in park to save gas. If you don't, "the gas engine will come on before you shut off the car."
13. **Don't leave the car running:** It may seem like a good idea to let your car idle while you dash into the store to grab the milk or drop off a rented movie, but doing so wastes gas. Take the extra few seconds to pull into a real parking spot and turn the car off first.

Maintenance Tips

Taking your car for regular check ups is another easy way to maximize mileage. Check out these helpful maintenance hacks that will keep your car running smoothly and efficiently.

14. **Get an oil change:** Keeping up with scheduled oil changes will help your engine run more easily. Adequate oil levels and [lower-weight oil](#) can also make a difference in how quickly your vehicle burns fuel
15. **Check your tire pressure:** Tires that are beginning to lose air and go flat put more stress on your engine, making it work harder and burn more fuel. Keep a [tire gauge](#) in your car and frequently check the tire pressure.
16. **Engine Control Module:** Your vehicle's [engine control module](#) "controls various aspects of an internal combustion engine's operation," including the amount of fuel being used by the engine, the ignition timing, and the variable valve timing. Making sure your engine control module is working properly will help you gauge how much fuel your car is using on a regular basis.
17. **Tire Balance:** If your tires aren't [balanced](#) correctly, you could end up wearing out certain tires faster than others, causing them to lose air and forcing your engine to work harder. Get a check-up for your tires if you think yours are out of whack.
18. **Conduct a seasonal check up:** During the winter, your car could become bogged down with extra weight from snow chains, heavier tires, or other items. During the summer, you'll probably be using your air conditioner nearly every day. Before each season, give your car a check up to unburden it of needless weight and to make sure the engine, A/C and other systems are in proper order.

Articles

These articles are full of great hypermiling tips, which will teach you how to save yourself from driving to the gas station every week.

19. [**Drive Further — on less gas!**](#): This simple guide provides tips for everyday drivers, “even if you don’t go to the crazy lengths” of obsessed hypermilers.
20. [**Jesus Would Drive a Stick Shift**](#): This article details the pros and cons of driving a car with a manual transmission. Find out if it really is better for the environment.
21. [**Save Money on Gas the Way the Pros Do**](#): The Hybrid Car Review offers tips and links for maximizing mileage and saving money at the pump.
22. [**Hypermiling: Quest for Ultimate Fuel Economy**](#): This article from Edmunds.com explores creative hypermiling techniques, like babying the brakes and placing cardboard over the radiator.
23. [**This Guy Can Get 59 MPG in a Plain Old Accord. Beat That, Punk**](#): This article chronicles the experiences of legendary hypermiler Wayne Gerdes.
24. [**Get 50 mpg — in your own car**](#): It *is* possible to get great gas mileage in your current car. Learn how with the ideas presented in this article from MSN Money.
25. [**“Hypermiling” the law enforcement way**](#): Forget about life threatening hypermiling techniques. This article offers advice on safe, legal methods any driver can practice.
26. [**How to Surge and Coast your way to better gas mileage**](#): Find out how you can save gas money by hypermiling even if you have to drive in a major American city.
27. [**Hypermilers: Common sense or insanity?**](#): The Environmental Economics Blog considers whether or not hypermilers are a little too obsessed with saving gas.
28. [**Slow and Steady: Hypermiler drivers make every drop of gas count**](#): This article unveils the subculture of extreme hypermilers. Get tips and learn about other drivers’ experiences that could improve your car’s fuel economy.
29. [**Hypermiling your fuel economy — The greenest extreme sport cars**](#): Discover the newest, most extreme trends in hypermiling, racing, and driving accessories.
30. [**Hypermiling: How I’m Fighting the Fuel War**](#): This article explores how raising our cars’ mpg would cause us to “use that much less gas, save that much more money, be less addicted to foreign oil, and contribute to a greener planet.”
31. [**Beating the EPA — The Whys and How to Hypermile**](#): This article, pulled from the CleanMPG Forums, dissects traditional EPA estimates and makes a clever argument for hypermiling, based on graphs, statistics and testimonials.
32. [**73 mpg? Try to top that!**](#): Follow the story of one Chicago hypermiler who aims to achieve the “best mileage ever.”

Hybrid Resources

Learn how to make the most of your hybrid experience by visiting the following websites and organizations which offer advice and information for hybrid car owners.

33. [**Great Hybrid Cars**](#): Find information on hybrid cars made by Toyota, Ford, Honda, and Nissan.

34. [HybridCars.com](#): This website includes guides for buying and maintaining hybrid cars, understanding the culture of hypermiling and driving hybrids, and general news about going green and preserving the environment.
35. [GreenHybrid](#): GreenHybrid is an interactive website full of pictures, forums, and articles about all kinds of hybrid vehicles.
36. [Hybrid Cars](#): Find out why you should buy a hybrid car with the information given on this website. Visitors can read a history of hybrids, find out how they work, and research the current cars already on the market.
37. [Hybrid Cars — Pros and Cons](#): This article from physorg.com includes a diagram of a Mercedes hybrid and provides helpful links to more reviews and information.
38. [How Stuff Works: Hybrids](#): Discover exactly how popular hybrid cars work, including the Toyota Prius and the Honda Insight.
39. [Hybrid Car Reviews](#): Compare prices, looks, and mileage with the help of this site.
40. [Hybrid Cars Guide](#): This “quick and easy guide” to hybrid cars features a glossary of terms, a history of hybrids, and an overview of the concept “going hybrid.”
41. [Hybrid Car Revolution](#): Stay on top of hybrid news and market updates by checking out the Hybrid Car Revolution.
42. [Hybrid Car Club](#): Talk about world energy issues, market news, and other fuel economy topics with hybrid enthusiasts on this site’s forums.
43. [Plug In America](#): This organization promotes “plug-in cars for a better America.” Check out the site for information and updates on plug-ins, networking and getting support for your car, and much more.
44. [Green Car Club](#): The Green Car Club “unites owners and enthusiasts of environmentally cleaner cars.” Visit their website to learn about the benefits of driving a green car and to link up with other environmentally-conscious drivers.
45. [Network for Good](#): The online community that puts everyday people in touch with their favorite charities also hosts a page just for hybrid lovers. Find out more about the movement, make a donation, or sign up to be a “virtual volunteer” and spread the word about how hybrids are helping the environment.
46. [Better World Club](#): The Better World Club is “dedicated to balancing economic goals with social and environmental responsibility.” Call them if you need an eco-friendly rental car or roadside assistance.

Expert Hypermilers

These men are lauded as a few of the leading experts on hypermiling. Look to them to find out about the newest tips for increasing your mileage.

47. **Wayne Gerdes**: [Wayne Gerdes](#) is considered the inventor of hypermiling. Check out his interview with Marketplace Money to find out how and why.
48. **Bradlee Fons**: [Bradlee Fons](#) is a frequent commentator and all around auto expert who is especially enthusiastic about hypermiling. This video shows him explaining to viewers how to get better gas mileage.

49. **Pat Goss:** Pat Goss is the resident expert at [Goss' Garage](#) on Washington Post Live and on the Motorweek TV Show. Tune in or email him questions to learn more about hypermiling and fuel economy.

Blogs

These blogs publish articles about fuel efficiency and hypermiling. Check them out for more information on increasing your vehicle's MPG.

50. **[Environmental Economics](#):** Tim Haab and John Whitehead often discuss the effects that cars have on the environment.
51. **[Foursprung](#):** Foursprung "is the ultimate car gadgets blog," but it sometimes includes posts about hypermiling.
52. **[Blog It Out Your Pie Hole](#):** This blog covers a wide range of topics, including the economy, oil and gas, and hypermiling.
53. **[Autoblog Green](#):** Catch up on what's new in the world of environmentally conscious cars. Articles range from market news to upcoming events.
54. **[Green Car](#):** This blog covers what's new in the hybrid car industry, new car reviews, and more.
55. **[Green Car Advisor](#):** The Green Car Advisor on Edmunds.com discusses "news and commentary on environmental automotive trends and technologies." Recent articles include "White House Plans Own CAFE Plan If Congress Won't Act" and "Fuel Economy, Greenhouse Gases Making News, But No Talk of Fuel Tax Hike."
56. **[Green-Car-Guide.com](#):** Paul Clarke's blog considers the effects of cars on our environment.
57. **[Go Hybrid Blog](#):** Still not convinced? Read the posts on this blog to find out why driving a hybrid car is better on your wallet and the environment.
58. **[Bike Commute Tips Blog](#):** If you can, leave your car at home and get around town on a bike. This blog shares tips on how to do it safely and quickly.
59. **[Save Gas](#):** This blog features stories about car news and shares tips for increasing gas mileage.
60. **[Energy Conservation Awareness Blog](#):** If you're a hypermiler because you're concerned about the environment, check out this blog to find more great tips for preserving our planet.
61. **[Save Gas MPG Blog](#):** Join others in the discussion about gas prices, mpg, and other hypermiling topics.
62. **[Daily Fuel Economy Tip](#):** Recent articles include: "The Top 10 Ways to Reduce Your Gasoline Consumption" and "What's Going to Replace Gasoline?"
63. **[Live Green Blog](#):** Access great tips for living a green lifestyle; including hypermiling and remaining conscious of your car's fuel efficiency.
64. **[Car Hacker](#):** Car Hacker covers news about hybrid cars, fuel economy and more.

Best Cars for Hypermiling

If you're in the market for a new car, check out these models for maximum fuel economy.

65. [Honda Civic Hybrid](#): The 2008 model boasts 45 mpg on the highway and comes with an idle-stop feature.
66. [Toyota Prius](#): The Toyota Prius is a favorite among green drivers. A push-button start, keyless entry, and “nearly 70% fewer smog-forming emissions than the average new vehicle” makes this car a smart choice.
67. [Honda Insight Hybrid](#): The [Independent Honda Insight](#) website provides visitors with an interactive guide to this “cleaner and more efficient” model that is super aerodynamic and environmentally friendly.
68. [Smart Fortwo](#): This adorable smart car has been popular in European countries for many years already. While it may have a hard time competing with gas-guzzling SUVs and monster trucks on American highways, its fuel efficiency is off the charts.
69. [Toyota Camry Hybrid](#): The Toyota Camry Hybrid was voted the “best mid-sized hybrid sedan” by ConsumerSearch.com because of its roomier interior.
70. [Toyota Highlander Hybrid](#): Driving a hybrid no longer means giving up your swanky SUV. The Toyota Highlander seats seven, but is still much more fuel efficient than a regular SUV.
71. [Saturn Aura Green Line Hybrid](#): The Saturn Aura Green Line Hybrid is a distinctly affordable hybrid car. It also “gets 25 percent better fuel economy than the gas-only version.”
72. [Saturn Vue Green Line Hybrid](#): The Saturn Vue Hybrid is a compact hybrid SUV that costs much less than other gas-only SUVs, and perhaps “only a few hundred dollars more” than typical Saturn SUVs.
73. [Lexus GS Hybrid](#): Lexus is known for creating quality vehicles, and the GS Hybrid is no different. This environmentally-conscious car still features a sleek exterior and a luxurious interior.
74. [Nissan Altima Hybrid](#): The Nissan Altima Hybrid can run up to 702 miles on a single tank of gas.

Tips for Serious Hypermilers

These tips are for the truly dedicated. Hypermilers should consider themselves warned, however. Some of these techniques are very dangerous.

75. [Pulse and Glide](#): This guide provides detailed directions for the pulse and glide hypermiling technique. Accelerate quickly to a few miles above the speed limit, and then coast down to a few miles below the speed limit.
76. [Warp Stealth](#): Click [here](#) for a detailed guide for implementing Warp Stealth on a Toyota Prius. This technique is achieved when “the car moves solely under electric power without the engine running.”
77. [Ridge Riding](#): If you want to save gas during or after a hard rain, hug the right side of your lane, or the shoulder if you're already driving in the far right lane, to

- avoid driving in the puddles created by other drivers. A more detailed explanation can be found [here](#)
78. **Drive in electric mode:** Toyota Prius drivers know that driving in the [all-electric mode](#) is “advisable” at the very end of a trip because “the batteries will recharge [more] quickly on your next start-up.”
 79. **Downhill run:** If you’re driving downhill, take your foot off the gas pedal and coast all the way down until you absolutely must brake or give your car a little more gas.
 80. **Gentle rise and descent:** The [gentle rise and descent](#) technique is based on the concept that only a “small amount of additional throttle will accelerate the vehicle before the rise is reached,” so that “additional power may be maintained on most of the upgrade.”
 81. **Accelerate moderately:** Unless you’re trying to merge onto a busy highway, accelerating slowly preserves gas.
 82. **Run all your errands during one trip:** Instead of running your errands several different times a day or spread out during the week, try stopping at the grocery store, video store, dry cleaning and (heaven forbid) gas station during one single trip. If you’re driving an electric car, this cuts back on its start-up time.
 83. **Park at the highest point in a parking lot:** This tip from [MSNBC](#) suggests parking at the highest point in a parking lot so that gravity will “get your car moving” when you turn it on again.
 84. **Cool yourself down with an ice vest:** Hypermiler Wayne Gerdes refuses to turn on his car’s air conditioner even in the summer. Instead, he wears an [ice vest](#) to cool himself down inside his stuffy vehicle.

Other Helpful Resources

85. [Hybridfest](#): Hybridfest is “an annual hybrid car show and more” where hybrid and hypermiling enthusiasts get together to swap tips, tricks, and information about fuel economy and being green.
86. [CleanMPG Forums](#): Participate in hypermiling debates with other users while checking out informative articles about hybrids and the environment.
87. [MPG Calculator](#): Found on the Sierra Club website, this MPG calculator tells you how many miles per gallon your car probably gets, the amount of money you spend on gas per year, how much pollution your car emits and your potential savings if fuel economy standards were modernized.
88. [Valuing the Lives of Hypermilers](#): This tongue-in-cheek calculator from the Political Calculations blog bases its computation on the danger/benefits quotient of hypermiling. For example, is it really worth helping the environment if you’re putting your own life at risk by practicing dangerous hypermiling techniques?
89. [Hybrid Lovers](#): This online store features designs for t-shirts, bumper stickers, and coffee mugs, and other promotional items. Choose from slogans like “Hybrids Make it Last Longer” and “If America is Addicted to Oil, Then I’m in Rehab.”
90. [The Great Race](#): The legendary Great Race celebrates its centennial in 2008, as drivers race from New York to Paris. This year, hybrids will be joining the race.

91. [HyperMilers](#): This website chronicles “the quest for ultimate efficiency.” Check up on the latest hypermiling and oil and gas news, network on the forums, or click through photos of hybrid cars.
92. [Hypermilers: Who Are They and What Do They Do?](#): Read this article to find out more about hypermilers and their fuel economy obsession.
93. [Hypermilers Go to Extremes for Savings](#): This story from Good Morning America brings the basics of hypermiling to everyday drivers.
94. [Hypermiling.com](#): Discover the Hypermiling.com “how-to methods,” buy hypermiling t-shirts, and find links to more stories and news articles about “driving to save gas.”
95. [Take It Slow and Save Big on Gas](#): This article from CNN.com urges drivers to stop complaining about over-the-top gas prices and start using basic hypermiling techniques like activating cruise control and driving at or below the speed limit.
96. [How to Become a Hypermiler](#): Read the article and check out the comments to find the best tips for hypermiling.
97. [Strategies for Smart Car Buyers](#): If you’re in the market for a fuel-efficient car, check out this guide to buying hybrids.
98. [Tailgating That Semi? Bad Idea](#): This article from the Car Buyer’s Notebook cautions drivers against tailgating or drafting behind large trucks just to save gas.
99. [10 Ways to Boost Your MPG](#): Use Wayne Gerdes’ ten tips to maximize your vehicle’s mileage every time you get behind the wheel.
100. [Microtrends: Hypermiling](#): The Times tackles the hypermiling trend in this article.