

HIGH GAS PRICES ... YOU CAN FIGHT BACK

Once again, we are overwhelmed by rising gasoline prices as a greedy industry looks for any excuse to increase their profits.

Consumers in Nova Scotia don't have a government with any backbone to protect them ~ unlike the regulated prices in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island that residents in those provinces enjoy.



To beat the petroleum companies at their own game, we looked back to the '70s when there were gasoline "*shortages*" (also orchestrated by the greedy oil companies) that moved consumers to **THINK** and actively pursue methods to curb excessive consumption.

In the intervening years, drivers have forgotten how to control their usage of what has become an artificially cost inflated energy source . Governments reap huge amounts in additional tax revenue, so they are not motivated to control gas prices.

The petroleum industry is not stupid ~ if consumers extensively curb usage by using a few simple controls, you will see gasoline prices plummet in short order.

We went back to the 70s gas "shortage" to re-discover what people did then to find the solution to this price gouging that exists today.

1. One of the main things that was pushed back then was that we should all reduce highway driving speeds to a steady 55 mph (about 80kmh). If you have **cruise control** in your car use it. Gas usage is increased when speeds continually go up and down. Ideally, find your space on the

highway ~ nothing in front of you and nothing behind ~ set your speed and maintain it in a steady manner.

2. If you drive to work every day, make arrangements with fellow employees to share each other's vehicles at least one or two days out of the week on an alternating basis so that cars are not going to work with only one occupant.

3. Plan your trips so that if you have two or three stops along the way, you will end up at your home. Grocery shop for a week or two weeks at a time so that you are not having to go to the store every second day for additional items.

4. Avoid "jack rabbit" starts when pulling away from stop signs ,etc. You're not in a quarter mile race where you are required to move the dead weight of your vehicle up to highway speed in the matter of a few seconds. Slow and steady will use less gas.

5. Properly maintain your vehicle. If your vehicle is out of alignment, the engine has to work harder to move it along against the drag that is created. If you have disc brakes, make sure brake calipers are fully releasing so that wheels are turning freely and not working against the engine. A well lubricated vehicle rolls along with less drag . A tight exhaust system will maintain sufficient back pressure so that your getting full power out of fuel you burn. Spark plugs should be in proper working order to ensure a full explosion in the combustion chamber and, again, provide all the power your paying for from your gasoline. Clean air and fuel line filters will ensure you're getting the most from that expensive fuel you're burning. A well lubricated engine will reduce internal engine friction and improve efficiency and mileage ~ change oil and filters at the recommended intervals for your vehicle.

6. Don't keep windows open when highway driving. Open windows disturb clean air flow over the car and create additional drag ~ which uses more gas. Don't leave car top carriers, ski racks and other externals on your car if they're not being used. Again, these create additional drag and gas usage. Don't use your trunk as a place to store sports equipment or tools ~ the additional weight requires more energy to move it and reduces gas mileage.

7. Don't use your car to take short hops to the corner store. Walk, save gas and do your body some good with the exercise.

There are probably many more ways you can think of to reduce your usage of gasoline.

If everyone followed these tips and stuck to them, thousands of litres of gas won't be sold and the oil companies won't be able to cry "shortages" as an excuse for their price-gouging - prices will come down in short order when the oil companies find they aren't selling it.