



Automobiles are essential to the lives of most Queens residents, but with the benefits come serious consequences: polluted air, dangerous roads, noise and congestion. Vehicular emissions contribute more than 91% of the total cancer risk from hazardous air pollutants in Queens. Living within 500

feet of major roads can dramatically increase the health risks of air pollution, and approximately 400,000 people in Queens live within that distance. <http://www.eyebeam.org/cloud-car>

WHAT CAN I DO TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY?

Inflate Your Tires

- Keep the tires on your car adequately inflated and aligned. Check them monthly. Save 250 lbs. of carbon dioxide and \$840 per year.

Change Your Air Filter

- Check your car's air filter monthly. Save 800 lbs. of carbon dioxide and \$130 per year. For information of how to do this correctly and environmentally visit <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/recycle/recy-oil.pdf>

Buy a Fuel Efficient Car

- Getting a few extra miles per gallon makes a big difference. Save thousands of lbs. of CO₂ and a lot of money per year. Look for the most efficient, lowest-polluting vehicle. For more information visit the Green Vehicles Guide Web page - <http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/>

Don't Idle

- Idling wastes money and gas, and generates pollution and global warming causing emissions. Except when in traffic, turn your engine off if you must wait for more than 30 seconds.

Choose a Cleaner Commute

- Car pool, use public transportation, bike or walk when possible.

Tune up

- Get regular engine tune ups and car maintenance checks (especially for the spark plugs) and avoid engines that smoke. For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/obd-faq.htm>.

Don't Spill

- Be careful not to spill fuel and always tighten your gas cap securely.

Telecommute

- Even one day a week will make a big difference. Shop by phone, mail or Internet.

Combine Errands

- Starting a car after it has been sitting for more than an hour causes up to five times more pollution than starting up a warm engine.

Park your Car and Go In

- Avoid waiting in long drive-thru lines, for example, at fast-food restaurants or banks.

Accelerate Gently

- Maintain the speed limit and use cruise control on the highway.

Minimize Air Conditioning

- Use EPA-certified facilities for air conditioner repair.

Recycle

- Find out if materials are recycled when you change your tires, "throw away" your car or change car fluids. Ask before your car is serviced and consider going to someone who is environmentally friendly.

Don't Drip

- Repair all vehicle leaks promptly and use an energy-conserving (E.C.) grade of motor oil.

Fill Up Cool

- Refueling on cool days or during cooler periods of the day, such as mornings and evenings, can prevent gas fumes from heating up and creating ozone. And that can help reduce ozone alert days.

Don't Top Off

- Topping off the gas tank releases gas fumes into the air, which cancels the benefits of the pump's anti-pollution devices. So, stop at the click and prevent gas spillage—it's safer and reduces pollution.

Know Before you Go

- If your area has a travel and transit information network, access it by calling, visiting the website, or tuning in to the cable station. Get travel and transit updates before you leave home so you're less likely to get stuck in a jam.

Register to Vote and Vote for Candidates who Support:

- Renewable energy policies
- Highly fuel-efficient modes of transportation
- Protecting existing ecologically productive lands
- Restoring degraded natural areas
- Promoting organic and local food sources
- Setting standards for recycled product procurement policies and fair trade

Spread the Word

- If everyone took just a few of these simple steps, it could make a big difference in air quality and traffic congestion.

This project is made possible (in part) with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, administered by the Queens Council on the Arts

