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| http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/drive.shtmlContact: Your Name, Coordinator  XYZ Coalition  Phone: (xyz) zzz-zzzz  Email: xyz@zzz.com | Street Address  City, State Zip Code  Website URL | XYZ CLEAN CITIES Coalition |

# **MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Hot Weather Fuel Economy Tips**

City, Month DD, YYYY:

Did you know? Hot weather can actually increase your fuel economy. Your engine warms up to an efficient temperature faster, summer grades of gasoline can have slightly more energy, and warm air causes less aerodynamic drag than cold air. However, keeping passengers comfortable in hot weather by using the air conditioning (AC) or rolling down the windows can reduce your fuel economy.

Fueleconomy.gov provides information on how hot weather affects fuel economy and what you can do about it (<https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/hotweather.shtml>).

**Running a car’s air conditioning is the main contributor to lower fuel economy in hot weather.** Its effect depends on a number of factors, such as the outside temperature, humidity, and intensity of the sun. Under very hot conditions, AC use can reduce a conventional vehicle’s fuel economy by more than 25%. The AC’s effect on the fuel economy of hybrids, plug-in hybrids, and all-electric vehicles can be even larger on a percentage basis.

**Driving with your windows down can also reduce fuel economy.** Open windows increase aerodynamic drag (wind resistance), making your vehicle use more energy to push through the air. This effect is quite small at low speeds, but increases at highway speeds.

Your Name, Coordinator of the XYZ Clean Cities Coalition is pleased to provide a few simple tips that can help fleets and consumers improve their fuel economy this summer:

* Roll the windows down at lower speeds; use the AC at highway speeds.
* Don’t use the AC more than needed or set the temperature lower than needed.
* Park in the shade or use a sunshade so the cabin doesn’t get as hot.
* Drive with the windows open for a short time before using the AC. Letting hot air out of the cabin first will put less demand on the AC and will help your vehicle cool faster.
* Don’t idle with the AC running before driving. Turn the AC on after you begin to drive or after airing out the cabin briefly. Most AC systems will cool the vehicle faster while driving.
* Read your owner’s manual. Most manuals explain how the AC system controls work and how to best use and maintain the AC system.
* For plug-in hybrids and electric vehicles, pre-cooling the cabin while plugged into the charger can extend your vehicle’s range. Also, using a warmer temperature setting for the AC will use less battery power.

To learn more tips to improve your fuel economy, visit  
[www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/drive.shtml](https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/drive.shtml).

For more information about how you can minimize your transportation-related petroleum use, contact Your Name, Coordinator of the XYZ Clean Cities Coalition.

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Clean Cities advances the nation’s economic, environmental, and energy security by supporting local actions to reduce petroleum use in transportation. Clean Cities is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.