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Save petrol

With petrol prices rising and to mark Transport Month, now is the time to start conserving fuel.

From the commercial trucker trying to transport his load across the country, to the motorist trying to get to work, we rely on oil for every aspect of transportation.

Brendan Horan, general sales and marketing manager at MiX Telematics, says there are a number of simple things every motorist can do to conserve fuel.

"It is in everyone's interests to conserve our limited fuel supply and I would like to encourage motorists to adopt driving measures that minimise fuel consumption," says Horan.

The latest measurements confirm that the world's oil and natural gas supplies are running out more quickly than expected and it is predicted that some time between now and 2020, the world's supply of oil and gas will fall below the level required to meet international demand, reaffirming its global status as 'black gold'.

With this in mind, and the ever rising cost of petrol making it increasingly difficult for the average consumer to cut costs, fuel saving measures could be our only option, says Horan.

Horan offers the following top 10 fuel-saving tips for motorists:

1. Change gears efficiently -

Move up to the highest gear as soon as appropriate.

When you drive slowly in a higher gear, you'll burn less fuel.

2. Drive smoothly - Don't drive aggressively and avoid hard acceleration.

You'll burn up to a third less fuel if you drive smoothly.

3. Avoid sudden braking - Keep a good distance from the car in front of you and avoid braking too hard as this will use more fuel.

4. Make sure your tyres are properly inflated.

5. Avoid over-revving your car. Don't over-rev when you're pulling away or accelerating.

Never 'redline' the rev counter.

6. Avoid carrying excess weight. Empty your boot and clear your car of unnecessary items.

7. Switch off your engine when it's not in use.

Avoid excess idling, it burns fuel unnecessarily.

8. Use air-conditioning sparingly. Air-conditioning puts extra strain on your engine and can increase your fuel consumption by 8%.

9. Keep your engine well tuned and serviced.

Service your car regularly - a poorly maintained engine with dirty plugs can increase your fuel consumption by up to 50%.

10. Avoid high speeds.

High speeds = more wind resistance = greater fuel consumption.