

Fuel Conservation: A Pressing Priority

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Abstract

Fuel Conservation is a pressing priority today and small steps towards fuel conservation can make an enormous change in the present bleak situation. Let's all come together and ponder over this grim and pertinent problem which our goddess earth is facing due to thoughtless and reckless consumption of fuel. It is not a problem of the Blacks or the Whites, or the East or the West; it is a problem which pertains to all of us all over the globe, and therefore, we should all make our best efforts to resolve it which is no less than a cancer and is spreading quite fast as a result of reckless use of the fossil fuel. It will not be an exaggeration to say that fuel is as important to us as are food and water to sustain our lives. We cannot imagine our lives without fuel, it is absolutely indispensable for us, and therefore, it would be very unwise of us as not to think or adopt measures to save it.

Keywords: Fuel, Conservation, Pollution, Environment, Vehicles.

Introduction

Fuel is as important as food is to sustain our lives. Most of us know the significance of fuel conservation yet we overlook the matter or do not give it due importance. During the current pandemic (Covid-19) situation, consumption of fuel had gone down tremendously in the first three months when the 'lockdown' was strictly imposed by the government. Resultantly, the atmosphere too had become pollution free to a large extent. However, now when the lockdown is lifted up and people are forced to go back to their workplaces to earn their bread, we see the same crowded streets as ever before. The prices of fuel are soaring high yet the long queues can be observed on petrol pumps because we cannot help using our vehicles for moving one place to another. Nonetheless, keeping in view, the scarcity and high prices of fuel, we ought to use it quite judiciously.

Aim of the Study

The aim behind writing this paper is to motivate readers to save as much energy as possible for the next generation, and to render useful information related to our fast depleting environment as a result of reckless use of exhaustible resources. However, the focus is upon as to what wise steps to be adopted while using the personal vehicle in order to save fuel for a better tomorrow.

Review of Literature

'Energy Conservation' (2008), a seminal book by Amanda Bishop discusses energy conservation, including various sources of energy, carbon emissions, fuel-efficient cars, and how to consume less and find alternatives to activities that require the use of fossil fuels. It also talks about why it is important to conserve energy, save electricity, water, and heat at homes, and finding alternatives to heavy energy consumption. Robert J. Henry's significant book, 'Plant Resources for Food, Fuel and Conservation' (2009) explores the competition between the food needs of a growing human population and the conservation of biodiversity as intensified by the emerging use of crops for energy production. It provides a comprehensive and thoughtful account on the potential for producing biofuels without harming biodiversity or food security. Amory Lovins' 'Winning the Oil Endgame' (2004) is one of the few books around which attempts to solve the energy problems. For instance, Lovins' main thrust is upon the auto industry to develop ultra-light vehicles that get double the gas mileage. In addition to the material available on the internet, I am also beholden to my colleagues with whom I discussed the said issue for days together and finally we could think of more than forty suggestions, however, after having made due selection, I am sharing just seventeen significant steps because I feel they are easily attainable. No wonder, some of you might already be following a few of them or most of them. Those of us who have not thought about it, would probably feel motivated to



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Anthology : The Research

embrace these small steps in their daily lives, and I hope those few would motivate others too to adopt the same.

*Little drops of water
Little grains of sand
Make a mighty ocean
And a pleasant land*

Fuel Conservation is a pressing priority today and small steps towards fuel conservation can make an enormous change in the present bleak situation. Let's all come together and ponder over this grim and pertinent problem which our goddess earth is facing due to thoughtless and reckless consumption of fuel. It is not a problem of the Blacks or the Whites, or the East or the West; it is a problem which pertains to all of us all over the globe, and therefore, we should all make our best efforts to resolve it which is no less than a cancer and is spreading quite fast as a result of reckless use of the fossil fuel. It will not be an exaggeration to say that fuel is as important to us as are food and water to sustain our lives. We cannot imagine our lives without fuel, it is absolutely indispensable for us, and therefore, it would be very unwise of us as not to think or adopt measures to save it.

Needless to say, we are dependent on fuel for almost everything right from cooking our food to driving our vehicles. Imagine how restless and helpless we feel when we run short of LPG gas while preparing our morning breakfast or when our car stops abruptly on the way while going to our school or to our office as a result of lack of fuel. Certainly, what is important and indispensable for us must be used quite judiciously, or say, economically. Moreover, we do not have sufficient fuel mines, and therefore, we have to import it from the gulf countries at a very high rate which causes a great burden on the exchequer. Yet another important reason towards fuel conservation is that it is an exhaustible source of energy, that is to say that fuel mines are non-renewable, over-consumption leads to exhaustion and they cannot be reproduced. Since we have been using or misusing this exhaustible source of energy for almost a century now, it is high time that we saved it. As human beings and as responsible inhabitants of the earth, it is our collective responsibility to save fuel and to protect the goddess earth from pollution and global warming.

We all know that residual of fuel gets mixed with air and contaminate our atmosphere and this causes several diseases related with air pollution. Even water and sound pollution are equally harmful for us. Too many vehicles almost round the clock are responsible for the air and the sound pollution. We have had enough of all kinds of pollutions, and we have caused enough harm to our beloved planet, now let us all take small but firm steps towards fuel conservation lest it should be too late. Yes, lest it should be too late. Some even say that covid-19, we are all fighting against, is a kind of vengeance, a retribution of mother Nature.

A number of government and non-government organisations all over the globe are doing

nice and great job of making the people aware of saving fuel and hence saving the earth. Most of us know the significance of fuel conservation yet we do not pay any heed to it or do not take it very seriously. Some of us are either selfish and do not bother about saving fuel or think that small steps taken by an individual or a few cannot bring about any change in fuel conservation. This is an absolutely fallacious thinking. The maxim, 'the earlier the better' holds good in the context of fuel conservation. If we do not do anything about fuel conservation immediately, no wonder our future generation would label us as callous, selfish and indifferent creatures. Working towards fuel conservation is just not a task anymore; it is a religious duty to accomplish it jointly. If 'strength lies in unity' so does success lie in unity. Thus, the saying goes: 'united we stand and divided we fall'. Therefore, it is time we commenced taking the following small steps to attain the desired objectives:

1. Let's try to make minimum use of our private vehicles, at least for small distances, and instead cycling and walking should be encouraged. These activities are not only good for health but also for keeping our planet pollution free.
2. For long distances, public transports like buses, trains or trams should be preferred, and if extremely necessary, car-pooling should be encouraged by the daily commuters or the office-goers. Car-pooling not only saves fuel but it also reduces traffic problems and pollution. Car-pooling also helps in creating friendship and strengthening bonds among the daily-commuters.
3. Driving vehicle at a medium and uniform speed is not only safe but it also helps in saving fuel. Very low or very high-speed leads to wastage of fuel and even untoward accidents. 8 km per hour over the speed limit can burn up to 23 percent more fuel. Therefore, adhering to designated speed limits contribute to fuel economy.
4. Keeping proper air pressure in tires also helps in saving fuel and maintaining the engine.
5. Air filters should be regularly cleaned and even changed from time to time because regular cleaning/changing results in better gas mileage, reduced emissions, improved acceleration, prolonged engine life and overall improved drivability, and thus, in proper operation of a car.
6. Using CNG vehicle instead of petrol and diesel is advisable because it is cheaper, easily accessible and even its production is easier.
7. Switching the ignition off at the traffic lights also helps in saving fuel and preventing air and noise pollution.
8. Driving the vehicles on the 'Eco-mode' also saves fuel considerably. Regular service of the vehicles not only helps in the maintenance but also in giving good mileage hence less consumption of fuel.
9. Using AC all the time in cars not only pollutes the environment but also leads to wastage of fuel. Therefore, we should habituate ourselves to reduce its usage to the minimum. Air-conditioners produce chloro fluoro carbon which is dangerous for environment; therefore, even at homes we

Anthology : The Research

should use them when it is unbearably hot. Let's not overlook the fact that too much physical comfort leads to poor resistance and hence poor immunity.

10. We should also save LPG as much as possible. Let's cook food in pressure-cookers or vessels with proper lids. High flames and big burners should sparingly be used, and the knobs must immediately be switched off while not using them. Proper usage not only saves scarce fuel but also the hard-earned money.
11. Heating up food again and again not only reduces its nutrient value but also results in wastage of fuel. Therefore, it is advisable to take food together which gives the members a good family time and prevents repeated heating up food.
12. Gas-geysers should be used only when they are extremely essential. We should give up the habit of bathing with hot water round the year because it is neither good for health nor for the pocket.
13. Remove all the clutter from your vehicle because keeping unnecessary items and stuffing too much cargo than is actually required leads to the burning of more fuel. Every 45 kg of extra weight can use up to two percent more fuel.
14. The sooner we get rid of Corona virus, the better for us. Nonetheless, the forced captivity because of Covid-19 has proved that work can also be managed from home. Work from home facility not only saves money we spend on fuel every day but it also saves time we waste on commuting. In the present pandemic situation, it saves us from the fatal virus too.
15. A good driver is one who drives in a cool, poised and relaxed manner always. Such a driver adheres to driving ethics and follows all the traffic rules, whereas, an agitated driver lacks all such necessary traits. Therefore, he might overlook the traffic lights, and on noticing the red light later might apply the brakes abruptly leading to increased fuel consumption. It is a proven fact that aggressive driving leads to excessive use of fuel. Hence, be a calm driver and not an aggressive one.
16. Aggressive and untrained drivers apply brakes excessively which leads to undue consumption of fuel and even causes brake pads to wear out

quickly. Therefore, appropriate distance must always be kept from the car in front of us so that we do not have to apply brakes often.

17. When moving out on a journey, it is advisable that we plan our route. We should follow the reliable and safe route which is traffic-free or less congested so that we are not distracted and tied up in traffic jams. This way, we may save money by not burning extra fuel and also contribute in keeping the environment pollution free.

The above cited small steps of fuel conservation can make a big change provided they are adopted with full sincerity and integrity.

Conclusion

To conclude, if we wish to save our planet, maintain our health and our comfortable living, we should replace the consumption of the fossil fuel with other sources of energy like for instance, the solar energy. It is a cheaper, natural, cleaner and renewable source of energy and God has bestowed it upon us in abundance. If we learn the techniques to capture, store and aptly utilize this vital and divine source of solar energy then there would be no dearth of power anywhere across our goddess earth. Thus, before the dream of consumption of the solar energy on a wide scale is realised, let's us save fuel today so that we may use it tomorrow. Remember, fuel conservation is a pressing priority of the moment.

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