

ULSTER COUNTY GREEN FLEET LAW: GREEN DRIVING TECHNIQUES

In 2014, Ulster County used a total of 233,000 gallons of gas to drive 2,936,000 miles at a cost of \$850,000. This doesn't even include the 283,000 gallons of diesel fuel used by our trucks and buses which cost the County \$885,000! In order to cut down on costs and reduce the County's Greenhouse Gas emissions, Ulster County passed **Local Law No. 3 of 2015; A Local Law Establishing A Sustainable Green Fleet Policy**. The policy involves a number of different steps to reduce emissions, decrease costs and increase efficiency. Among these steps include the downsizing of vehicles, the optimization of vehicle use, incorporating efficiency into bid specifications, maximizing vehicle efficiency through maintenance and operation, the elimination of vehicles and to encourage the use of transit systems, bike riding, walking, & telecommuting. The law also states that County employees are to drive efficiently and utilize efficient operating techniques.

By employing green driving techniques, you can significantly reduce your fuel usage without any significant loss of time. Utilize these 6 simple techniques for fuel efficient driving and help save the County and taxpayers money and reduce our Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions:

- 1. SLOW DOWN & KEEP IT STEADY.** According to the EPA, most cars run at maximum efficiency at 60 MPH, and every 5 MPH over 60 decreases efficiency by 6 %. Slowing down may actually get you where you need to go quicker, as you won't have to stop as frequently for gas. Using your cruise control to maintain a steady speed can help to reduce your fuel consumption by 10% on average. However, for mountainous drives, skip the cruise control and coast downhill whenever possible.
- 2. ACCELERATE AND BRAKE SLOWLY.** The harder you accelerate, the more fuel you waste. For optimal fuel efficiency, it should take you about 5 seconds for every 15 MPH that you accelerate. Braking slowly helps to conserve fuel and can help save on brake and tire maintenance and repair costs.
- 3. AVOID IDLING.** *Ulster County Green Fleet Policy* states that you may not idle for more than 5 minutes anytime you are in a county owned vehicle or while on County property in a personal vehicle. An idling vehicle gives off 80% more pollution than a vehicle in motion. Turning the vehicle engine off and then on again uses less fuel than idling for 30 seconds or longer. The best way to warm up your vehicle is to gently drive.
- 4. KEEP COOL EFFICIENTLY.** Wisely use your air conditioning. On a hot day, drive with the windows open to let out the hot air before rolling up the windows and turning on the AC. Once your car is cool, switch over to the fan function, which will circulate the cool air. When traveling over 40 MPH, it is more efficient to roll the windows up and turn on the AC, as it reduces drag, but when traveling under 40 MPH, it is better to turn off the AC and roll down the windows.
- 5. TRAVEL LIGHT & CHECK TIRES OFTEN.** Avoid carrying around excess weight— an extra 100 pounds in your vehicle can decrease your MPG by up to 2 percent. Maintaining the appropriate tire pressure also helps to reduce fuel consumption by reducing road friction.

For more information on green driving visit:

<https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.jsp> <https://www.dot.ny.gov/ecodiving>

3 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR EMPLOYEE COMMUTE GREENER

Did you know? Ulster County employees commute approximately 22 miles round trip every day. In an effort to lessen Ulster County's carbon footprint, we need your help!

Ulster County Executive Michael P. Hein welcomes you to **Ulster County Greener Commuting**, a 511NY Rideshare service that provides Ulster County employees a new way to find sustainable transportation options. This easy-to-use portal is offered to all Ulster County employees.

Use **Ulster County Greener Commuting** to find information on carpooling, transit, biking, Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station locations and other resources.

Here's how to get started:

1. Go to the Rideshare Login found on the Ulster County Intranet:
<https://ridematch.511nyrideshare.org/newyork/?id=2138&client=UlsterCounty>
2. If you are a new user, click on the "Register Here" button; otherwise, log in with your email address and password. Complete/review your commuter profile. Your profile preferences will determine what information is shared with potential rideshare partners.
3. Once you complete your registration, run a Ridematch to find other travelers who have similar travel routes. The system will allow you to communicate with potential rideshare partners. (Check back often as new registrants are added to the database each day.)
4. Click on the above icons for additional information and resources related to transit, Park and Ride lots, electric charging stations, biking and ridesharing.
5. For personalized service, questions or assistance, call 511 and say, "Rideshare." Customer service is available Monday - Friday, from 6AM to 7 PM.

511NY Rideshare is sponsored by the New York State Department of Transportation to provide free commuter and traveler information.

ULSTER COUNTY AREA TRANSIT (UCAT)

Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) bus rides are only **30 cents per ride for all County employees!** Just show your County employee ID badge to the bus driver and enjoy this efficient, inexpensive and environmentally-kind commute.

All of the UCAT buses run on clean **biodeisel**. All UCAT buses are equipped with bike racks.

Please call (845) 340-3333 for further information. Or you can download the 'UCAT' APP, which will give you the bus schedule *and* show you exactly where your bus is in transit. Search for 'UCAT' on the App Store or Google Play to download this APP.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

Ulster County recently installed Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations at nine County facility parking lots, allowing 94% of all Ulster County employees to have access to workplace charging, free of charge.

For more information on the charging locations go to the following websites with electric vehicle charging station location maps:

<http://www.afdc.energy.gov>

<http://www.chargepoint.com>

<http://www.plugshare.com>

**SUSTAINABLE
ULSTER COUNTY**

— COUNTY EXECUTIVE MICHAEL P. HEIN —

GREENER COMMUTING