

FUEL-SAVING TIPS FOR PROPANE SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

Drivers control fuel economy by managing their vehicle's throttle, accessories and idling time. Skillful management of these factors will improve fuel economy under any driving conditions.



Use a Light Foot on Starts

A propane bus has no turbo lag. Throttle response is immediate when accelerating from idle. Use the least amount of throttle needed to achieve satisfactory performance.

Watch the Tach

The most efficient operating range for a propane bus engine is between 1600 and 3400 rpm.

Try not to rev the engine past 3000 rpm on a level start without letting the transmission shift. On level ground, the best shift point from first to second and second to third gears is between 2000 and 2500 rpm.

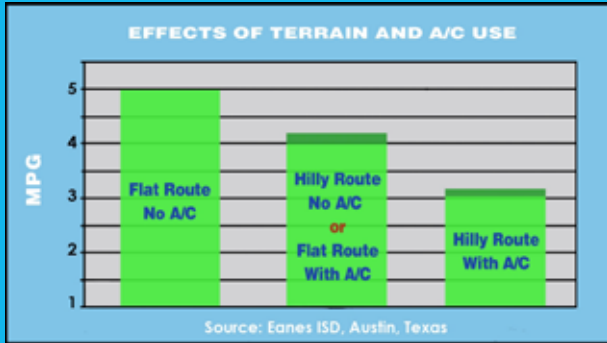
For most driving conditions, engine speeds between 2000 and 2500 rpm achieve the best fuel economy. Listen to your engine to get a feel for fuel-saving starts and gear changes.



Anticipate Stops

"Easy does it" applies to stops as well as starts. Back off on the accelerator at least 200 feet from an upcoming stop.

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Manage A/C Use

At the start of each trip, ask yourself, "Do we need A/C at this time?" Run the A/C system only when you decide air conditioning is really needed.

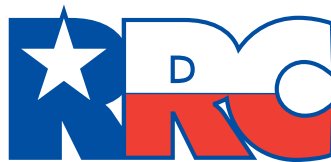
At the end of a trip, turn off the air conditioner and accessories before turning off the engine. That way, the next time the engine starts, it won't use extra fuel to start up the A/C compressor or put an extra load on the starter.

Minimize Idling Time

You can increase your miles per gallon by up to 5 percent by limiting idle time to three minutes. Reducing idle time also reduces emissions. Since most idling takes place on campus, an important side benefit is improved air quality for students, staff and visitors.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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