WHY CONSERVE FUEL?

In the 2007 Sitka Residential Energy Survey, 77% of people indicated that they were concerned about the amount of fuel they used. Of these, 42% were concerned only by cost and 6% were concerned solely because of environmental issues. 49% of people were concerned about fuel use because of both cost and environmental issues. With high fuel costs, energy conservation by altering driving habits and driving smaller cars becomes a more attractive practice. This brochure will discuss issues associated with different modes of transportation and provides resources for further information on reducing and offseting emissions associated with transportation. This brochure will discuss compact cars, trucks and SUVs, electric and hybrid cars, public transportation, walking and biking, and how to reduce fuel consumption.

Other Resources:

http://www.fueleconomy.gov

http://publictransit.sitkatribe.org/

http://www.sitkaaoc.org/Projects/Bike-Friendly/bicycle.html

Sitka's Global Warming Group (Electric Car Info), Michelle Putz, http://www.sitka-globalwarming.org/

http://www.denaligreentags.com

http://www.nativeenergy.com

SITKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY

For more information, contact the City and Borough of Sitka Electric Department or the Sitka Conservation Society

http://www.cityofsitka.com

http://www.sitkawild.org

DESIGNED BY AMY HEINEMANN, 2007

PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION IN SITKA

ENERGY CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY IN SITKA

PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION IN SITKA

COMPACT CARS

The fuel economy, or gas mileage, (average miles per gallon) of compact cars is much better than that of larger vehicles. The Corporate Average Fuel Economy - CAFE - standard for cars is 27.5 miles/gallon for new vehicles.

Compact cars get much better gas mileage than larger cars, trucks, and SUVs and represent an affordable way to reduce fuel consumption, money spent on gas, and greenhouse gas emissions.

TRUCKS AND SUVS

Trucks and SUVs have a low fuel economy compared to smaller vehicles. The average fuel economy of light trucks (including SUVs, minivans, and pickups) is 22.2 miles per gallon for new vehicles. These vehicles consume more fuel and emit more carbon dioxide than compact cars. Heavier trucks (over 8,500 pounds) are not subject to CAFE standards so they get even lower gas mileage.

In the US, the majority of new vehicles (53%) are light trucks. With city driving, gas mileage tends to be below average so the average in Sitka may be lower than 22.2 mpg.

In the long run, trucks and SUVs will cost more money because lower gas mileage results in more fuel use. When a larger vehicle is not needed for hauling boats, gear, or people, driving a smaller vehicle can help save money.

ELECTRIC CARS AND HYBRIDS

Electric cars are currently in the infancy stages of technological development. Maintenance in Sitka could be problematic, as well as functions like heating and defrosting. In coming years, electric vehicles are likely to develop and be more reliable and viable alternatives to conventional vehicles.

Hybrids have been more fully developed and are one way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with driving. Maintenance may be a challenge in Sitka, so check with your mechanic to see if they will be able to service a hybrid. Hybrids tend to be more expensive than vehicles of similar size, so this is not for everyone.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

There is some public transportation available in Sitka. Buses run regularly to and from the airport, and the Community Ride bus runs during normal business hours along Sawmill Creek Road and Halibut Point Road, stopping at the grocery stores and other points along the roads. For more infomation as well as bus schedules and rates, go to the Community Ride website, listed under "Other Resources."

Carpooling or ride sharing is another option that can be taken advantage of. By coordinating schedules with neighbors, you can save gas by riding to work and running errands together.

WALKING AND BIKING

Walking and biking are both the cheapest and most environmentally benign modes of personal transportation and should be taken advantage of when possible. Sitka is an ideal place to walk and bike, as it is relatively compact and there are bike paths and sidewalks along main roads. In warmer months, consider biking or walking to and from work instead of driving to reduce fuel consumption. This will save you money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with fuel combustion.

There are some good bike trails in Sitka, but there is potential for expansion. Currently, members of the community are working to have Sitka become a Bicycle Friendly Community to promote this mode of transportation, recreation, and physical activity. For more information on this campaign, refer to the Sitka AOC website, listed under "Other Resources".

REDUCING FUEL CONSUMPTION

Diesel-powered vehicles get 30-35% more miles per gallon than comparable vehicles that are run on gasoline. Diesel fuel has 10% more energy per gallon than gasoline. In Sitka, the diesel fuel sold is ultra low sulfur so certain environmental problems traditionally associated with diesel are minimized.

Regardless of the fuel type that is used, practicing better driving habits (slower acceleration and braking), carpooling, driving less, and driving smaller vehicles or not driving at all can reduce fuel consumption.