

FUEL EFFICIENCY DRIVERS' TRAINING COURSE

Overview

The Alberta Climate Change Action Plan (2002) outlines government fleet initiatives, specifically fleet driver education fuel efficiency awareness programs, as a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from government operations. The Alberta Motor Association (AMA) and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation have developed a course to meet this objective.

The Fuel Efficiency Drivers' Training course aims to educate drivers about practices that could decrease their fuel consumption. The course has two components:

1. is a test drive that measures fuel efficiency, and is completed at the beginning and the end of the course to determine whether students have improved their driving techniques.
2. consists of classroom instruction on driving options and the effect of vehicle emissions on the environment and human health.

Specific topics covered during the course include vehicle options, vehicle maintenance and driver behaviour, including looking ahead and minimal idling. For more ideas on how to drive fuel efficiently use the line noted here:

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/tools/fuel-consumption-guide/guide-tips-driving.cfm?attr=8>

Results

This fuel efficiency course was developed in 2001 and was demonstrated in 2002 as a pilot project with 30 Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation drivers. A follow-up survey showed that a year and a half later 89 per cent of drivers still followed the fuel efficiency practices taught during the course. Most participants found the course to be beneficial for urban driving. The course also covers topics related to highway driving, and drivers found both practices effective.

In 2005-2006 Alberta Environment provided funding for over 70 government drivers to take the course. Improvements in fuel efficiency ranged from 0.5 per cent to 30 per cent, with an average improvement of 8.6 per cent.

Contact Information

For further details on the course, and for registration information, please contact:

Ron Wilson
Provincial Coordinator – Commercial Instructor
(403) 240-5486
Ron.Wilson@ama.ab.ca

SMARTDRIVER TRAINING: A PROGRAM FOR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS

The SmartDriver family of programs is run by the Government of Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency. It allows professional drivers, fleet managers and owners to reduce fuel and maintenance costs as well as the environmental impact of their fleet. The various programs are focused on different industries and are described below.

Transit

- A two-day workshop involving both instruction and on-road training.
- Topics covered include engine use of fuel, the effect of emissions on the environment, vehicle maintenance and driving techniques.

Forestry Trucks

- Consists of five modules with instruction including vehicle maintenance, haul operations and driving techniques.
- A CD-ROM is free for fleet managers, owner-operators, company drivers and instructors. Please see the contact information below for further details on this package.

Highway Trucking

- Includes an information toolkit, case studies, fleet profiles, workshops and technical demonstrations.
- Topics covered include checking specifications, maintenance, operations and driving techniques.

Motor Coach

- The package includes an instructor's guide, a handbook, a software presentation, a video and a certificate of completion. It covers information ranging from alternative fuels to driving techniques.
- Added benefits include a smoother ride for passengers.

For more information on these programs, and for registration information, visit the website at:

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/business/smartdriver/index.cfm?attr=16>

Or contact:

FleetSmart

Office of Energy Efficiency
Natural Resource Canada
580 Booth Street, 18th Floor
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0E4

Phone: 1-800-387-2000

Fax: (613) 952-8169