



## First person reports: How do high gas prices affect you?

Posted by [Yankee](#) on August 16, 2005 - 10:52am

In the [comments](#) of an earlier post, Lem head points us to a "[Citizen Journalist](#)" piece on MSNBC about ways in which people have changed their lives because of fuel costs. There are actually 5 internet pages of responses. Looks like folks are finally getting hot and bothered. Most people are doing the obvious: running multiple errands at once and tacking them onto the end of the work day, not using the A/C to its fullest extent, driving slower. Then there's the guy that bought a bicycle, and another guy converted his car to biodiesel.

'Course, then there's this guy:

The only way it changed my life is that it lowered the price on 4x4's. My 8-year-old sports car was due to retire and my wife's 4x4 had 40,000 miles on it since we bought it 1.5 years ago. So off to the dealership we went and home we came, with two brand new gas guzzlers. Did I mention that I drive 74 miles each way to work. That's 150 a day. Can you think of a more comfortable way to spend those hours than in a big, comfortable vehicle? Me neither.

--Rob Campbell, Marietta, Ga.

And this guy:

Fuel costs are more than offset by:

- A) Lower tax rates
  - B) Lower crime rates
  - C) Lower house prices
  - D) Better schools
  - E) Larger yards
- and

F) Greater freedom all provided by suburban living.

I have an SUV that gets approximately 12 miles-per-gallon. The impact of gas prices is not going out to eat as much. Keep in mind, the prime driver of gas prices is TAXES, not the fuel cost. Lower my taxes and \$3 gas will seem inexpensive. Gas is still cheaper than milk.

--Michael Fuller, Frederick, Md.

Well, we're trying to stay apolitical here, so I won't offer my 2¢ about Mr. Fuller. I'm sorry to gloat, but it's articles like this one that make me glad to live in a city for now. (I realize it won't be so great when the food supply starts being affected.)

Go ahead and take a crack at answering the MSNBC question. Maybe we'll learn a new tip that we

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hadn't thought about before.

Technorati Tags: [peak oil](#), [oil](#), [gas prices](#)

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