Driver Tip:
Of all the factors affecting fuel economy, including aerodynamics and tire maintenance, more than a third are attributed to driver skills.

Ford C-Max Added to Fleet
After years of excellent service from the Ford Escape Hybrid, King County Fleet has added the new Ford C-Max Hybrid to our fleet of green vehicles. Here are a few highlights of the C-Max.

The C-Max is expected to get 45 to 50 miles per gallon by remaining in electric mode up 60 miles per hour. The 2.0L engine has good acceleration for merging into freeway traffic and seating for 5 with abundant cargo space.

Starting will be similar to driving a non-hybrid vehicle. Turn the key to start and the green “ready to drive” indicator on the dash will come on and you’re ready to go. Note that it may start in electric mode, which will be silent, but select the gear you would like with the console-mounted shifter and drive as normal.

Power points are provided for charging cell phones or other accessories. They are on the front of the center console, inside the center console and in the cargo area. Remember to unplug your electronics when you park your car because they will drain the battery when the car is off. Steering wheel mounted controls operate the instrument cluster display selections.

The C-Max has a cap-less fuel system for easy refueling and no worries about the “check engine light” coming on for a loose gas cap. In case you run out of gas and need to add some from a gas can, a special funnel is in the cargo compartment.

Well-Informed Drivers Wanted!
As a King County employee, the way you drive a county vehicle has a dramatic impact on management of the county fleet. The decisions you make on a daily basis in terms of driving behavior directly impact our fleet’s fuel expenditure, which in turn impacts the amount of CO₂ emissions delivered into the atmosphere, not to mention reducing wear and tear on the engine. Here are four simple ways you can quickly and easily improve the environment while conserving fuel and protecting a valuable asset:

- **Slow down** — Fuel economy decreases about 1.4 percent for each mph over 50. Driving at 55 mph rather than 65 miles mph, for example, increases fuel economy by about 14 percent.

- **Don’t Idle** — Unnecessary idling wastes fuel in non-hybrid vehicles. In fact, idling for as little as five minutes can waste up to 20 cents of fuel. Turn off your vehicle if you are stopping for more than 30 seconds — restarting the engine will use less fuel than idling. Also, keep in mind that today’s engines do not need much time to warm-up. Less than a minute should suffice, even in cold climates. Just take it easy for the first couple of miles. Another reason not to idle, the King County policy regarding anti-idling, 4FES12-5 (AEP).

- **Lighten the load** — A vehicle consumes more fuel when transporting heavier objects, so remove all unnecessary items.

Easy Fuel™ “no cap” Fuel Filler
Starting in late 2007, Ford began to equip several vehicle models with the Easy Fuel™ “no cap” fuel filler system. This new feature eliminates the need for a fuel filler cap and allows the driver to simply insert the fuel nozzle. When fueling is completed, removing the nozzle causes the spring-loaded fuel filler to close and latch, preventing fuel vapors from escaping into the atmosphere.

How do you know if your vehicle is a “no cap” model? It is labeled “NO CAP” around the fuel fill opening.

How does it work? The spring loaded fuel door is held closed by two latches, which can only be released by a standard unleaded fuel nozzle, or the special plastic funnel included with the vehicle.

What is the special plastic funnel? If you need to add fuel from a portable fuel container, you must use the special white plastic funnel, that’s in the cargo bin.

Remember, safety first! Do not use other aftermarket funnels or try to pry open or push the Easy Fuel™ system as this could damage the fuel system and its seal, potentially injuring you or others.
Warning Lamps and Indicators
Color is King

For the most part, a symbol in red indicates a potentially serious problem or safety issue. It is also used to indicate an important reminder. Yellow/orange mean something needs to be serviced or repaired soon. If the symbol is flashing, it is truly important that you contact King County Service professionals. A green or blue symbol is for information only, telling you that a system is on or is operating.

If you see any of the following symbols on your dashboard, take no chances. Stop your vehicle immediately and contact an authorized repair facility.

Indicators:

Brake warning

Engine coolant temperature

Engine oil level or oil pressure warning

Engine damage may occur.

Charging system warning

Tire pressure monitor

Indicates low tire pressure or sensor problem.

Master warning

Indicates electrical component fault/failure that may cause the vehicle to shutdown. Could also be a safety-related warning such as door open or seatbelt not fastened.

SRS Airbag

Check engine

Indicates increased emissions and decreased performance.

Well-Informed Drivers Wanted!

from the vehicle. On average, for each 100 pounds of needless weight, your fuel efficiency is reduced by as much as 2 percent.

• Avoid rapid accelerating and braking — One half of the energy needed to power a car is consumed during acceleration, and fuel economy can be improved by as much as 10 percent by avoiding unnecessary braking. The use of cruise control is one effective way to avoid fuel-inefficient driving.

If you practice these suggestions in your own personal vehicle, you will also reap the benefits of being a well-informed driver. It makes good sense/cents at work and at home!