

## Fuel Efficiency

**Ted Shaffrey:**

New government rules on gas mileage standards were signed into law Thursday. By 2016, automakers must put out vehicles that drive 35.5 miles per gallon: that's ten miles per gallon more than required now.

**Barack Obama:**

We'll save 1.8 billion dollars, uh, billion barrels of oil, uh-overall. 1.8 billion barrels of oil. And that's like taking fifty-eight million cars off the road for an entire year.

**Ted Shaffrey:**

The 35.5 miles per gallon is a combined fleet number: so if an automaker makes a vehicle with low gas mileage, they can make up for it with a very fuel-efficient vehicle, say a hybrid, in the forty-miles-per-gallon range. The American Automobile Association applauded the move.

**Robert Sinclair:**

We have the means, it's just having the will to make these things happen on a-a large basis. Um, you know, they-the manufacturers when they were building all these SUVs were saying: "Oh, this is what people will want." "This is what the market wants." Well, you build something better, that gets better mileage, that is as safe and lighter and all those kind of things, and people will buy it.

**Ted Shaffrey:**

Chevrolet says they will be able to meet the new regulations and are promoting the new fuel-efficient Chevy Cruz, which comes out later this year.

**Mark Whelan:**

We have the uh new Chevy Cruz that's gonna get about forty miles per gallon, and our trucks are already in the mid-twenties, so we might be able to get to those standards without much help.

**Ted Shaffrey:**

Honda says the industry is getting more fuel efficient each year, as part of the competitive sales environment, and will meet the new number.

**Sara Pines:**

Well, at Honda we've always had a pretty distinct focus on fuel economy. Consumers ask for it. Uh, it's kind of part of our heritage and our DNA anyway. So, having new regulations just means it's a-a-another part of the puzzle that we've always considered.

**Ted Shaffrey:**

An organization that represents automobile manufacturers says they support the new law.

**Dave McCurdy:**

Well, we're very pleased, because this is the culmination of one phase of an effort that we actually, uh, took to the administration and promoted, to-in order to get certainty and clarity for a-a single national standard for greenhouse gases and emissions, and also fuel economy increases.

**Ted Shaffrey:**

As gas prices have risen, automakers have responded in recent years with electric, hybrid, and diesel vehicles that boast greater fuel efficiency.

**Ted Shaffrey:**

Ted Shaffrey, The Associated Press, New York.

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