

US finalizes new auto fuel economy standards

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The rules announced by the Department of Transportation and [Environmental Protection Agency](#) "will significantly increase the [fuel economy](#) of all new passenger cars and light trucks sold in the United States," the agencies said.

"The rules could potentially save the average buyer of a 2016 model year car 3,000 dollars over the life of the vehicle and, nationally, will

conserve about 1.8 billion barrels of oil and reduce nearly a billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions over the lives of the vehicles covered."

Starting with 2012 model year vehicles, the rules require [automakers](#) to improve fleet-wide fuel economy and reduce fleet-wide [greenhouse gas emissions](#) by roughly five percent every year.

By 2016 the industrywide standard will be 34.1 miles (54.9 kilometers) per gallon (3.8 liters), taking into account improvements in efficiency of car air conditions.

The standards also require that by the 2016 model-year, manufacturers must achieve a combined average vehicle emission level of 250 grams of carbon dioxide per mile.

"These historic new standards set ambitious, but achievable, fuel economy requirements for the automotive industry that will also encourage new and emerging technologies," said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.

"We will be helping American motorists save money at the pump, while putting less pollution in the air."

"This is a significant step towards cleaner air and [energy efficiency](#), and an important example of how our economic and environmental priorities go hand-in-hand," said EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson.

DOT and EPA received more than 130,000 public comments on the September 2009 proposed rules before issuing the final standards.

Officials said the program would reduce [carbon dioxide emissions](#) by about 960 million metric tons over the lifetime of the vehicles regulated, equivalent to taking 50 million cars and light trucks off the road in 2030.

The agency said the plan was done in coordination with Canada, which also issued new emissions standards.

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