

{Anchor: Simon / OTS}

Gas prices in Central New York could hit 3 dollars per gallon--the highest they've been since 2015. But that doesn't mean you have to spend more than your current budget. N-C-C News Reporter Anjani Iman is at the Citgo station in Dewitt with more.

{Anchor: Anjani / Liveshot}

Thanks Simon. For many families, Springtime means driving the kids from school to soccer practice, or even a trip out of town. But this year, you might think twice about those expenses and visit one of the cheaper gas stations in Onondaga County, like this Citgo station.

{***TAKE PKG***}

(Duration 1:40)

(CG: Joe Talarico)

{***TAKE SOT FULL***}

**[TAKE SOT
ITEM TIME:0'12"]**

("When you have a family of five, a wife, three kids, and you have all the different expenses, I think that you look for ways to cut costs. You know travelling less, taking less vacation and doing things to cut down on your travel time.")

(Track 1)

Joe Talarico has already changed his spending and driving habits due to the gas price hike. According to Triple-A, 40 percent of drivers would definitely change the way they drive once gas prices hit 3 dollars per gallon.

Triple-A Manager Todd Ingraham says that the summer demand for crude oil makes gas more expensive, but here's what you don't see: Average gas prices in Syracuse have been significantly ABOVE the NATIONAL average since December of last year.

(CG: Todd Ingraham)

{*** TAKE SOT FULL ***}

**[TAKE SOT
ITEM TIME:0'13"]**

("I think really the motoring public has sort of gotten used to it or adapted to it because it is a volatile market and we have seen the prices go up and down.")

(Track 2)

Ingraham says we can offset these hikes by cutting down on travelling, running errands all at once, and driving slower. For every 5 miles per hour you drive over 50 miles per hour, you pay an additional 18 cents a gallon.

{Anchor: Anjani Iman}

Gas stations on Erie Boulevard are more expensive due to its convenient location. You might have to drive to the Citgo station in Dewitt to get a cheaper tank of gas.

(Track 3)

S-U student Randy Posner paid \$2.79 at Valero on Erie and Walnut because it was the closest to his apartment on campus, but as prices reach a tipping point (just like Talarico), his habits might change.

{***SOT FULL***}

(CG: Randy Posner)

[TAKE SOT

DURATION:0'09"]

("I'll probably drive a little farther down erie to get cheaper gas but I guess we'll have to see.")

(OUTCUE: ...but I guess we'll have to see.)