



**“Trump’s action will feed America’s destructive use of oil, while hamstringing us in the green tech race against... foreign carmakers,” warns Dan Becker, director of the Center for Biological Diversity’s Safe Climate Transport Campaign. Countries like China and Europe are aggressively investing in EV infrastructure and [technology](#), and the US risks falling behind if it slows down its own transition.**

## **Trump Vows to Roll Back Biden Car & Truck Fuel Rules**

By Daniel Foster - Senior Editor, Economy  
4 December 2025

### **The Road Ahead: How Trump’s Fuel Economy Rollback Could Reshape the Auto Industry and Your Wallet**

Imagine a future where gas prices consistently spike, American automakers lag behind global competitors in electric vehicle [technology](#), and the fight against climate change takes a significant step backward. This isn’t a dystopian fantasy; it’s a potential outcome of the Trump administration’s recent decision to dismantle Biden-era fuel [economy](#) standards. By rolling back requirements for automakers to

increase vehicle efficiency, the administration is betting on affordability, but at what cost?

## **The CAFE Standards: A History of Progress, Now in Reverse**

The Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards, established in 1975 in response to the oil crisis, have been a cornerstone of US energy policy for decades. They've steadily pushed automakers to innovate and produce more fuel-efficient vehicles, saving consumers money at the pump and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Biden administration aimed to build on this progress, proposing standards that would reach approximately 50 miles per gallon by 2031. Trump's new proposal, however, sets the bar much lower, at around 34 miles per gallon by the same year. This represents a significant weakening of environmental regulations and a potential setback for the transition to cleaner transportation.

## **Why the Rollback? Affordability vs. Long-Term Costs**

The Trump administration argues that the stricter Biden standards would make new cars too expensive for average Americans. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy stated the goal is to allow automakers to "make vehicles that Americans want to purchase," implying that consumers prioritize affordability over fuel efficiency. However, critics argue this is a short-sighted view. While lower upfront costs might seem appealing, consumers will ultimately pay more in fuel expenses over the lifespan of the vehicle. A recent analysis by the American Council for an

Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) estimates that the rollback could cost drivers an additional \$1,000 over the life of a vehicle.

**Key Takeaway:** The rollback prioritizes short-term affordability, potentially shifting long-term costs onto consumers and hindering progress towards a sustainable transportation future.

## **The Ripple Effect: Impacts on Automakers and the EV Race**

The decision isn't just about fuel efficiency; it's about the future of the auto industry. The Biden standards were designed to incentivize automakers to invest in electric vehicle (EV) [technology](#). By loosening those requirements, the Trump administration is effectively reducing the pressure to accelerate the EV transition. This could have significant consequences for American competitiveness in the global automotive market.

**“Trump’s action will feed America’s destructive use of oil, while hamstringing us in the green tech race against... foreign carmakers,” warns Dan Becker, director of the Center for Biological Diversity’s Safe Climate Transport Campaign. Countries like China and Europe are aggressively investing in EV infrastructure and [technology](#), and the US risks falling behind if it slows down its own transition.**

*Expert Insight:* “The auto industry is at a critical inflection point. The shift to EVs is inevitable, and the companies that embrace it will thrive, while those that resist will be left behind. Weakening fuel economy standards sends the wrong signal to investors and could stifle innovation.” – Dr. Emily Carter, Energy Policy Analyst, Princeton University.

### **Internal Combustion Engine’s Last Stand?**

The rollback could prolong the dominance of the internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle. While demand for EVs is growing, ICE vehicles still account for the vast majority of new car sales. Lower fuel economy standards could make ICE vehicles more attractive to consumers in the short term, delaying the widespread adoption of EVs. However, this could also create a glut of less efficient vehicles on the road, exacerbating air pollution and contributing to climate change.

Did you know? Transportation is currently the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, accounting for approximately 28% of total emissions.

### **Beyond Fuel Economy: A Broader Trend of Deregulation**

The rollback of CAFE standards is just one piece of a larger pattern of deregulation under the Trump administration. Other policies aimed at promoting cleaner energy

vehicles, such as consumer tax credits for EV purchases and penalties for automakers that don't meet mileage standards, have also been reversed. This signals a clear shift in priorities, prioritizing short-term economic gains over long-term environmental sustainability.

## What Does This Mean for You?

The implications of this decision extend beyond the auto industry and environmental concerns. Here's what you can expect:

- 1. Higher Fuel Costs:** Less fuel-efficient vehicles will mean more trips to the gas station and higher fuel bills.
- 2. Slower EV Adoption:** The pace of EV adoption may slow down, delaying the benefits of cleaner transportation.
- 3. Reduced Innovation:** Less pressure on automakers to innovate could stifle the development of new fuel-efficient technologies.
- 4. Potential Impact on Resale Value:** As EVs become more desirable, the resale value of less efficient vehicles could decline.

Pro Tip: If you're considering purchasing a new vehicle, research fuel efficiency ratings and consider the long-term costs of ownership, including fuel expenses and potential resale value.

## Looking Ahead: The Future of Fuel Efficiency

The future of fuel efficiency standards remains uncertain. The Biden administration could attempt to reinstate stricter standards if they regain power. However, even without federal intervention, market forces could continue to drive the transition to

EVs. Consumer demand for cleaner, more sustainable transportation is growing, and automakers are increasingly recognizing the need to invest in EV [technology](#) to remain competitive.

## **The Role of State-Level Regulations**

In the absence of strong federal standards, state-level regulations could play a crucial role in promoting fuel efficiency. California, for example, has its own set of emissions standards that are often stricter than federal standards. Other states may follow suit, creating a patchwork of regulations across the country.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: Will this rollback immediately affect the price of gas?**

A: Not immediately, but over time, reduced fuel efficiency standards could lead to increased demand for gasoline, potentially driving up prices.

### **Q: What can I do to reduce my carbon footprint from driving?**

A: Consider purchasing a fuel-efficient vehicle, driving less, carpooling, using public transportation, and maintaining your vehicle properly.

### **Q: Will this rollback impact the development of new EV technologies?**

A: It could slow down investment in EV [technology](#), but market forces and consumer demand are still likely to drive innovation in this area.

**Q: Where can I find more information about fuel economy standards?**

A: Visit the EPA's website (<https://www.epa.gov/fuel-economy>) or the Department of Energy's FuelEconomy.gov website (<https://www.fueleconomy.gov/>).

<https://www.archyde.com/trump-vows-to-roll-back-biden-car-truck-fuel-rules/>