

**Cutting down on your carbon footprint by using**



**Energy Efficient Transport**

# Why cut down on your transportation footprint?

- Transportation accounts for 28% of all energy used in the United States.
- As gas prices rise, using more efficient transport will save you gas money.
- Excessive driving leads to poor air quality.
- Drilling for oil leads to oil spills and the disruption of wildlife.

# How to cut down on your transportation footprint

- Get a more energy efficient car
- Drive less: bike or walk
- Work at home
- Take public transport
- Change the way you fly



# Buy a more energy efficient car!

- The Toyota Prius was named the most fuel efficient vehicle of 2010 with 51 mpg city and 48 mpg highway. It has sold more than all other hybrids combined.



# Buy an Electric Car

- According to a recent study at Rice University, if the United States wants to quickly decrease its oil consumption then investing in electric cars would be the most efficient way.
- The 2011 **Chevy Volt** can run on a pure electric charge for 40 miles. It will be available for consumers nationwide by the end of 2011. Also, after the lithium-ion batteries in the Volt are used up, they will be recycled.
- Buy a Volt and receive a \$ 7,500 federal tax credit! Also,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of people only drive 40 miles a day anyway!

# The Chevy Volt



- Don't forget: even if your electric car runs off 100% coal it's still more energy efficient than gas-powered cars.
- Electric cars produce ZERO emissions.

# Public Transport: Howard Transit

- A one way fare is only \$ 2.00 and an monthly unlimited ride pass is less than \$ 50.00.
- **All buses are now hybrids!**
- Convenient routes take you to the Columbia Mall, Howard Community College, BWI, and several Howard County Libraries.
- You can save up to \$7,000 annually by using public transport!





# Carpooling:

- Fill your car! Taking three people in your Prius is more efficient than taking public transport.
- Every day on the road, millions of seats are empty due to a lack of carpooling.
- Carpooling cuts down on the traffic!
- Check out this article about carpooling in San Francisco.

<http://www.good.is/post/carpooling-quietly-booms-in-san-francisco/>

# Bike and Walk!

- Join the Howard County Cycling Club and bike every Wednesday with them!
- Bike to work! Utilize local bike paths in Columbia for a greener way to go places.
- Walk! October is walk-to-school month
- Biking and walking give you exercise, and you get to appreciate the great outdoors!



# How to Reduce Carbon Footprint When **Flying**

- **Fly direct:** about 50% of carbon emissions come from take-off and landing.
- **Fly a newer carrier:** A carrier with newer planes is more likely to have more energy efficient technology and lighter materials.

Southwest was named the most ecological airline by [Ecopreneurist.com](http://Ecopreneurist.com)



# Quick Tips

- Hit all the green lights by driving the speed limit (cities are designed this way). This will reduce the amount of time you spend idling at a stop light.
- Drive **55 mph**, it's the optimum speed for fuel efficiency.
- Use flexible hours! Try to commute to work when there is less traffic, you'll spend less time in the car and save gas.
- For inner city travel under 20 miles take the train! It produces half the CO2 emissions of a bus traveling the same distance. ([Carbonfund.com](http://Carbonfund.com))