

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



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)