

PROJECT TOOL: Carpooling

Carpooling involves two or more people sharing a ride to a destination point rather than each person driving separate vehicles. Sharing a ride with someone that you work with is one of the easiest ways to alternatively commute to work.

Employers that choose to support this action can offer preferred parking – either the most convenient spaces or discounted parking rates – and offering an employer-sponsored Guaranteed Ride Home program to employees who carpool.

Carpool Benefits

- Reducing the number of vehicles on the road reduces overall vehicle emissions, thereby improving air quality.
- Gasoline consumption drops. Billions of gallons of fuel are wasted as vehicles idle in traffic congestion each year. (Source: Texas Transportation Institute)
- Costs for maintenance for your vehicle can decrease when you utilize carpool.
- Stress Reduction. Provides time for reading, working or relaxing that might otherwise be spent idling in traffic.

Get Started

- For an employer or organization interested in establishing a carpool program, consider the potential for use. Are work schedules predictable? Are there long-distance commuters? Is there a parking shortage? These factors can enhance the appeal of carpooling.
- Provide a forum for employees to find carpool matches. This can be as simple as a bulletin board for posting ride requests.
- Consider establishing an incentive program to reward carpoolers. This can consist of providing preferred parking, recognition, or prize drawings for participants.
- A guaranteed or emergency ride home program is a very important part of supporting a carpool program. It can increase participation by reassuring carpoolers that they will have a way home if carpool plans are disrupted by unexpected overtime or illness.

For more information regarding alternative commute options, please visit our “You Hold the Key, SC!” webpage: <http://www.scdhec.gov/youholdthekeys>

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