

# **“Demonstrate, Educate and Promote”**

## **Alternative Transportation**

Transportation has been a subject of concern every time we face an energy crisis; it accounts for 67% of U.S. oil use, mainly in the form of gasoline.

The cost of energy, mainly fossil fuel, affects the food chain, our manpower and customers, and therefore directly affects the way we run our Business. The Hospitality Business by its nature will be more sensitive to change and crisis; luckily, there are plenty of ways to improve gas mileage.

Utilizing more local products, having employees commuting from a shorter distance and promoting incentives to customers which make the effort to spend more money in transportation in order to come to your Business, will be subjects of consideration.

### **Flexitime:**

The Texas Transportation Institute estimates that U.S. drivers waste nearly 6 billion gallons of fuel each year due to traffic congestion, typically during peak morning and evening commute times as people drive to and from work. This not only costs commuters nearly eight working days in time each year, it also adds nearly 60 million tons of greenhouse gases annually to the atmosphere, along with noxious pollutants such as carbon monoxide and particulates. Flexitime

arrangements can help staff avoid traffic jams, reducing their emissions as well as saving time.

Flextime also benefit those who walk, ride or use public transportation. Your business will benefit of less stress workers grateful for the time not stuck in traffic.

### **Public Transportation:**

How often do you stand around trying to hail a cab to get across the city simply because it requires less thought than working out what bus, train or subway to catch? When you factor in things like time spent parking, public transportation is often just as quick as driving, as well as being much cheaper. Encourage staff to use public transportation wherever possible, and take the hassle out of it by providing maps and timetables for local for local services in the staff room.

Check with your local community transport schedules, itineraries, prices and other facilities; Buy tickets in bulk, monthly passes, annual passes, annual business bulk rate, senior discounts, annual disabled and medicare cardholders, students and military (reserve, volunteers, ...) rates.

### **Pool Resources:**

Three out of every four car trips transport just the driver; encouraging carpooling or vanpooling is an obvious way to reduce carbon emissions created by commuting. Staff will save by sharing gas costs and your business will save on parking. Rather than just leaving it to informal arrangements, make carpooling or vanpooling part of your workplace culture: establish a database so people who work in different areas can get in touch with one another. Provide incentives such as

priority access to parking spaces, experience shows the cost of doing so is negligible compared to the benefits.

**Biking:**

Encourage biking to work and provide path maps and bike racks; when available offer the option to use a shower for the bike riders.

**Telecommute:**

Working from home eliminates both the costs of commuter travel along with workplace energy use, which is often many times more than needed at home.

Local governments are increasingly promoting telecommuting to combat air pollution, with research indicating just a 4 percent change in the traffic volume can be the difference between free-flowing traffic and traffic congestion. Like Flextime, Telecommuting isn't for every workplace or every person, but you can probably use it more than you do.

The challenge is to move away from a culture of attendance to one based on performance, assessing staff on the work they do rather than the time they are seen to be spending on it.

**Light Green Tips:**

**Do**

. For employees, post bus schedules, encourage biking to work, provide carpooling and vanpooling information and bulletin boards.

. For customers, promote and reward their green behavior, make them part of the changes: reward customers if they arrive by bicycle or public transportation

**. When driving your own car, change your driving habits:**

**1/ The best way to warm up your vehicle is to drive it!**

**2/ You do not need to be aggressive when you drive (speeding, rapid acceleration and hard braking); it can lower your highway gas mileage by 33% and city mileage by 5%!**

**3/ Avoid high speeds; above 55 mpg the gas mileage drops rapidly! When driving an Hybrid vehicle, drive at 70 mph on the highway instead of 75 or more, you can save up to 10 mpg!**

**4/ Clear out your car; extra weight decreases gas mileage by 1 to 2 % for every 100 pounds!**

**5/ Reduce the drag by placing items inside the car or trunk rather than on the roof rack; a loaded roof rack can decrease your fuel economy by 5% or more!**

**6/ Combine errands into one trip; several short trips, each one taken from a cold start, can use twice as much fuel as one trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm!**

**. For car maintenance:**

**1/ Keep tires properly inflated and aligned to improve your gasoline mileage by around 3 to 5 %!**

**2/ Replace clogged air filters to improve gas mileage by as much as 10% and protect your engine!**

**3/ Use the grade of motor oil recommended by your car's manufacturer; using a different motor oil can lower your gasoline mileage by 1 to 2%!**

**4/ Get regular engine tune-ups and car maintenance checks to avoid fuel economy problems due to worn spark plugs, dragging brakes, low transmission fluids or transmission problems!**

## Dark Green Tips:

### Do

. Consider buying a highly fuel-efficient vehicle or an alternative fuel vehicle: Diesel, Biofuel, Biodiesel, Hybrid,...

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**“Because Ecology means Business”**

