



Make Pittsburgh Even Cooler in May:

Save energy and money with green transportation options

By choosing more cost and energy-saving options for your vehicle and by choosing alternative forms of transportation, you not only lower your fuel costs, but you also help reduce global warming.

Get Your Money's Worth in Miles

- **Check Your Tire Pressure**
According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, about 25 percent of passenger vehicles operate with under-inflated tires. Not only does this put your personal safety at risk, it lowers your fuel efficiency, and means you'll need new tires sooner. Proper inflation saves you money and actually improve your gas mileage by around 3.3 percent. The proper pressure for your car's tires can usually be found in the owner's manual or the door post. You should check the pressure once a month and before long trips. For more information on properly maintaining your tire pressure, visit this link: http://www.rma.org/tire_safety/tire_maintenance_and_safety/.
- **Drive at the Speed Limit:**
The U.S. Department of Energy states that your gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. In fact, by driving 70 mph instead of 60 mph, you actually spend \$0.48 more per gallon for gas. You should keep in mind that all posted speed limits are intended to preserve your vehicle, your safety, and, as luck would have it, your wallet and the environment.

Choose Alternative Forms of Transportation

- **Don't Use Your Car for One Day a Week, or even Make The Change Permanent**
Instead of driving alone, commit to using these energy and money-saving alternatives – carpool, take public transit, walk, bike, or get rid of your gas guzzler altogether and buy a yearly bus pass, a hybrid vehicle, and/or use ZipCar:
 - **Carpooling or Ridesharing:** The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's CommuteInfo program offers free ride-matching services that can link you to a carpool or vanpool in your area. Last year, this program prevented about 362 tons of heat-trapping gases from being released into the environment.
 - **Public Transportation:** The Port Authority of Allegheny County reports that the national use of public transportation decreases the output of heat-trapping gases by more than 7.4 million tons per year. Choosing public transportation will not only reduce your contribution to global warming, but it will also help you avoid the costs and inconveniences of parking, traffic, and gas.

- **Walking or Biking:** These options are free of cost, beneficial for your health, and release no heat-trapping gases into the environment. Pittsburgh has bike routes that travel throughout downtown and even reach into the Greater Pittsburgh area. An inexpensive way to purchase, recycle, and maintain your bicycle is through the Free Ride Recycled Bike Shop. This do-it-yourself program developed by Bike Pittsburgh provides the tools, parts, and education necessary for you to fix and maintain your own bicycle. You can also purchase quality, recycled bicycles for both children and adults at Free Ride.
- **Buy a Yearly Bus Pass:** According to the Port Authority of Allegheny County, owning a yearly bus pass can save you as much as \$1,500 and up to 200 gallons of gas per year.
- **Purchase a Hybrid:** According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, hybrids can cut global warming emissions by a third to a half compared to the cleanest vehicles on the road today. They also offer similar or even better gas mileage. To learn more about hybrids and to compare different hybrid models, explore http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/hybrid_sbs.shtml. The government also offers income tax credits for purchasing a hybrid. For more information, visit <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/taxcenter.shtml>.
- **Use ZipCar (Black and Gold City Goes Green participants get a great deal!):** This car sharing program offers people the convenience of a car without the environmental or economic drains of car ownership. With cars at locations throughout the city, each ZipCar takes 15-20 personally-owned vehicles off the road; this can save up to 110 tons of heat-trapping gases from being released each year. In addition, those who use ZipCar report an average monthly savings of more than \$500 compared to car ownership. If you are participating in the Black and Gold City Goes Green campaign, your first year's membership is only \$35 (that's a 30% discount!), and that money gets applied directly to your driving credit - it's like getting your first year's membership free! Head to <http://www.zipcar.com/blackandgoldgoesgreen> to sign up.

More questions? Talk to the local experts

- **CommuteInfo:** To find a carpool, vanpool, or bikepool in your area, call CommuteInfo at 1-888-819-6110 or visit www.commuteinfo.org.
- **The Port Authority:** To explore bus and rail schedules and to buy passes, visit their downtown station at 534 Smithfield St, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 or visit www.portauthority.org.
- **Bike Pittsburgh and Free Ride:** If you want to know about bike routes and parking, consult www.bike-pgh.org or call them at 412-325-4334. Also consult Free Ride at <http://freeridepgh.org> or call 412-731-4094 if you want to purchase, maintain, or fix your bike.
- **ZipCar:** ZipCar is offering a special promotional rate on membership for participants in the Black and Gold City Goes Green Campaign – it's like getting your first year's membership free. See <http://www.zipcar.com/blackandgoldgoesgreen> for details. You can also call 866-4ZIPCAR for more information.

Track Your Progress

Go to our website (www.theblackandgoldcitygoesgreen.com) and fill in the tracking form so we can measure how much we're all cutting our heat-trapping gases. No computer? No problem. Call us at 412-258-6680 or fill in one of the postcards available throughout the city.