

Human Resources

Rideshare



How to "Go Green"

Everyone is talking about "going green" and reducing their carbon footprint, but what does it all mean? In a recent Washington Post and ABC News poll, 85% of Americans said they were willing to do something to improve the environment.

How can you help by going green? Here are some ideas that you might want to consider to help reduce your carbon footprint one carbon at a time:

- Reduce water usage – you'll save energy too
- Use more efficient lighting
- Drive a more [fuel efficient vehicle](#)
- Reduce vehicle trips – ridesharing is a great way to reduce trips!
- Replace major appliances with newer, energy efficient models
- Eliminate unnecessary trips
- Make errands come to you – have your groceries or dry cleaning delivered
- Take transit, walk, bike, vanpool or carpool – even one day a week will help!

Want to know what your carbon footprint is? Take this quick [survey](#) and calculate how "green" you are!

Dump the Pump Campaign

Be a part of the pollution solution, and join the [American Public Transportation Association](#) in helping to "Dump the Pump" during National Dump the Pump Week, June 16-20, 2008. Locally, [OCTA](#) is sponsoring the week long event that is meant to help raise awareness about:

- Public transportation opportunities
- How ridesharing helps the environment
- Ways to conserve fossil fuels

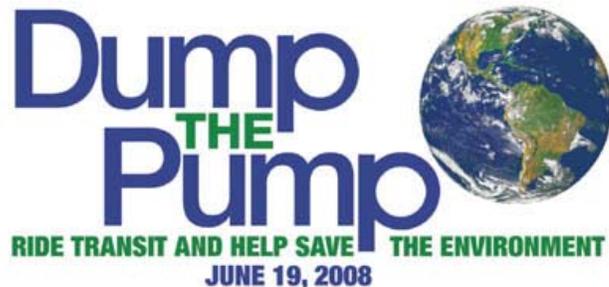
OCTA will be hosting several [Pit Stops](#) throughout the County, and offering coupons that are good for a FREE one-day OCTA pass. They'll also have fun giveaways and pledge forms for commuters who want to Dump the Pump, and be entered into a drawing for some great prizes!

County of Orange employees can also [pledge](#) on-line or call 714/647-1931 for a "Dump the Pump" pledge form.

Guaranteed Ride Home

What happens if you carpoled to work and you suddenly need to get home because of an emergency? Or you missed your usual ride home because you have to work unexpected overtime? The Commuter Assistance Program can help! We offer a [Guaranteed Ride Home](#) program, which allows County of Orange employees with a free taxi or rental car ride home in case of illness, emergency or unexpected overtime.

For more details and guidelines about the County's [Guaranteed Ride Home](#) program, visit one of our 30 commuter information [display racks](#), send us an e-mail at rideshare@ocgov.com or call the Message Center at 714/647-1931.



New All-In-One Application Form

We've stream-lined the process to request rideshare related services or incentives! Download the new [All-In-One Application](#). Here is an overview of the incentives and services available to County of Orange employees:

Incentives/Services	Eligibility	Details
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Carpool / Vanpool Classifieds	Any employee interested in finding a carpool or vanpool match.	Employee contact information is added to the carpool/vanpool interest database posted on-line and shared with other employees with similar interests. Employees are encourage to contact others on the list with similar commutes. Employees may be contacted directly by other County employees. Participants receive the Carpool discussion checklist and related applications that apply. Employees can also register with www.ridematch.info or call 1-800-COMMUTE.
Try the Train on Us Free 2-day Ticket	Any employee who has not ridden Metrolink to work during the past 90 days. A viable Metrolink route must service the commute.	Employee will receive a complimentary 4-trip ticket provided by Metrolink and supporting material. Ticket is valid on any Metrolink line and is valid for 60 days. If not able to use, the ticket should be returned so that it can be re-circulated before it is invalid. Employee may receive follow up information directly from Metrolink.
Try the Bus on Us Free 1-day Ticket	All employees who have not ridden OCTA Bus to work during the past 90 days. A viable local bus route must service the commute.	Employee will receive a complimentary 1-day pass provided by OCTA and supporting material. If not able to use, the pass should be returned so that it can be re-circulated. Employee may receive follow up information directly from OCTA.
Commuter Club \$10 to \$15 Gift Card, Merchant Discounts, Quarterly Drawings	Any employee who rideshares at least 5 workdays a month for 3 months or longer. Those that continue to rideshare 5 days a month can use the Commuter Club Card and may qualify for the annual thank you gift and quarterly drawings.	New members will receive a \$15 Starbucks Card. All members will automatically be entered into ongoing quarterly drawings for one of eight \$25 gift cards. Participation is renewable annually through the annual transportation survey process. Renewing members receive a \$10 Starbucks Card. All members receive a Commuter Club Card good for discounts from participating merchants for as long as they rideshare.
Commuter Choice Purchase tickets pretax up to \$115/mo	All employees who purchase OCTA Bus, Metrolink or vanpool tickets on a monthly basis through the payroll deduction process. One-time only first-month free applies if no other County of Orange startup subsidy received.	This program offers you pretax savings on approved commuting options. Commuter Choice guidelines are provided on the Voluntary Payroll Deduction Authorization form which must be submitted by the 1 st of the month to receive tickets the following month. Payroll deductions will occur on the second check of each month.
Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) Free ride home by taxi or rental car	This is funded by OCTA and certain guidelines will apply. All employees who have used a rideshare mode on the day that the valid emergency situation arises. Limited to 4 GRH trips per 12 months. Form must be signed by their supervisor.	Valid emergencies are unplanned situations such as family emergencies, illness, or unscheduled overtime. Planned or scheduled trips such as a doctor's appointment or overtime that was known prior to coming to work are not authorized GRH trips. The Guaranteed Ride Home Authorization form is required (available on-line or see your HR Manager).
Advantage/ Option Rideshare \$2 Per Day for 3 months	This is funded by RCTC and SANBAG and certain guidelines apply. New ridesharers living in western Riverside County or San Bernardino County. Participant can not have participated in a rideshare arrangement within the past 90 days.	Receive \$2 per day for each day you rideshare to work for 3 months. Incentives are paid in the form of gift cards. The incentive begins once an employee uses one or more alternative transportation modes to work at least 5 days per month for 3 months. Gift cards are provided after completing 3 months of ridesharing.
RidesharePlus Merchant Discount Catalog	This is funded by RCTC and SANBAG and certain guidelines apply. Existing ridesharers living in western Riverside County or in San Bernardino County who rideshare at least one day a week for more than three months.	Participants receive a Merchant Discount Catalog with discounts at almost 500 businesses including national restaurant chains, bowling, skating, baseball, movies and more. One time registration and yearly confirmation required.
Vanpool Incentive \$400 Per month / Van	This is funded by OCTA and certain guidelines apply.	Vanpool groups can get a reduction in the monthly lease amount up to \$400 per month. Coordinated through VPSI and Enterprise vanpool.
3+ Carpools Ride Free on the 91 Express Lanes	You must have a "transponder" and ride in the designated lane on the 91 Express Lane. Must set up account as 3+ carpool.	3+ Carpools ride free (except when traveling eastbound Monday through Friday 4-6 p.m. when tolls apply at a 50% discount).

Ten Ways to Save Money at the Pump

Worried about the high cost of gas? Know the best way to avoid spending more on gas than you need to? Keep all of these tips in mind:

- **Drive Smart!** When you drive aggressively, you waste gas and put others at risk. Observe the speed limit, avoid rapid acceleration and braking, and maintain a constant speed on the road
- **Keep Your Car in Shape** – A well-tuned car burns less gasoline. So make sure that you get your oil and air filters changed regularly, and that your tires are always properly inflated
- **Use Public Transportation** – Look into the public-transportation options in your area, and use them as much as possible. [OCTA](#) provides service in Orange County
- **Try to Combine Errands** – According to the [Department of Energy](#) several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as a longer, multipurpose trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm

- **Go for a Ride or Walk** – Rather than drive your car to the corner store or a friend's house, walk or ride your bike there. Studies show that this approach has the added advantage of reducing your risk of heart disease
- **Carpool** – Carpooling will also enable you to shorten the time of your commute by using [High Occupancy Vehicle](#) lanes
- **Pack Light** – According to the [Department of Energy](#), a loaded roof rack on your car can decrease fuel economy by approximately five percent. Also, every 100 pounds you carry in a car reduces a typical car's fuel economy by one to two percent. So, when you go on vacation or a long car trip, put everything you can *inside* your vehicle, and pack light
- **Think Hybrid** – Some of the most fuel-efficient vehicles on the road today are [hybrid-electric cars](#). A hybrid combines an electric motor with a conventional, but cleaner, gasoline-powered engine. Over its lifetime, a 50-mile per gallon hybrid will use half as much gas, and release half as much global-warming pollution, as a 23-mpg vehicle

First & Second Quarter's Commuter Club Drawings

We're happy to announce the winners of the first and second quarter's drawing for the County of Orange [Commuter Club](#) ridesharing member program! Each quarter, we draw eight (8) names of current "active" Commuter Club members and they win a \$25 gift certificate! This quarter's winners are:

Vinson De Guzman, Health Care Agency
Ana Lopez, OC Public Library
Andros Pescador, Social Services Agency
Azucena Holgado, Social Services Agency
Amy Arnold, Superior Court
Cadiz Gonzalez, Health Care Agency
Allen Medina, Health Care Agency
April Thornton, Health Care Agency

Robert Strickland, John Wayne Airport
Brenda Rios, Health Care Agency
Elizabeth Estrada, RDMD Accounting
Linda Monroe, Social Services Agency
Zanetta Moloi, Health Care Agency
Angela Knox, Superior Court
Anna-Marie Colunga-Vega, Probation
Christina Avila, Registrar of Voters

They have each won a gift certificate redeemable through [GiftCertificates.com](#), where they can select from over 20 merchants!

Do you rideshare at least five days per month? If so, be sure to sign up for the [Commuter Club](#), or visit one of our 30 commuter information [display racks](#), send us an e-mail at rideshare@ocgov.com or call the Message Center at 714/647-1931. Members receive an annual thank you gift, a Commuter Club Discount card, and are eligible for the quarterly drawings.



Inland Empire Residents Who Rideshare Go Shopping

Inland Empire Commuter Services' [Rideshare Plus](#) program offers Inland Empire residents that rideshare to work for at least three months discounts at local restaurants and venues.

Their Rideshare Plus website has also recently been revamped, and is no longer a "member-only" website. If you live in Riverside or San Bernardino county, and have been ridesharing for three months or longer, and would like to become a member, you can download the [Rideshare Plus](#) application. Current members can also download the new [2008 catalog](#) of participating merchants.

New Online Park and Ride Map

Are you looking for a [Park & Ride](#) lot where you can meet your carpool or vanpool partners and share the ride to work? Now you can find one easier than ever before with [CommuteSmart.info](#)'s new interactive [Park & Ride](#) lot feature that uses Google Earth mapping to bring you an at-a-glance picture of exactly where lots are located throughout Southern California. You can choose whether you want to view all Park & Ride lots or a list by county. The pull down menus for each lot show:

- Number of parking stalls
- Owner and operator
- Contact phone numbers
- Hours of service
- If it's a Metrolink terminal
- The bus lines that service the lot
- If any applicable fees or permits are required
- List of amenities, such as restrooms, lighting, etc.

You can also enter your home address and find the [Park & Ride](#) lot that is closest to you, and then choose "get directions" for the route to get you there.

New Metrolink Parking Structure

In order to support growing demand, construction of a new six story parking structure has begun at the [North Main Corona Metrolink](#) station. This will increase the total parking capacity from 563 spaces to over 1,400 spaces in the fall of 2009.

While construction is in process, commuters are encouraged to use these alternate parking facilities:

- Edwards Theatre – temporary parking is available at the old Edwards Theatre located at [351 Rincon Street](#). Shuttles will be available every five minutes in the mornings from 5AM to 8AM and in the evenings from 5PM to 8PM
- Park & Ride – parking is also available at the Taber Street Park & Ride lot of the I-15 Freeway at Ontario Avenue. The [Corona Cruiser](#) Red Line will provide free shuttle service to and from this lot to the [Metrolink](#) station

Be sure to check back often for [Construction Updates](#) and other information.

Bring-A-Friend Campaign

Current Metrolink train and OCTA bus riders that are registered with the County of Orange Commuter club program are participating in a new campaign to help increase ridership. Club members were provided with free one- or two-day passes to give to fellow employees that could benefit from taking the train or bus to work. If you received a "Bring-A-Friend" packet, be sure to give the free pass to an employee with the Bring-A-Friend claim form before June 30th so that you can qualify for the prize drawing to win a \$100 gift card! If you cannot use the pass, be sure to return it to the Rideshare Office so we can re-circulate the pass to others before it expires. For more information, please send an email to rideshare@ocgov.com or call 714-647-1931.

