



Human Resources Rideshare



OC Commuter

Winter 2012

2011 - A Great Year for Ridesharing

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The County's rideshare program and its participants accomplished much in 2011. More employees are enjoying the Rideshare Program services and incentives in addition to reducing pollution and traffic congestion. The annual employee transportation survey also yielded commute-related statistics and information useful in helping the Commuter Assistance Program team plan new benefits, events and services, ensuring another successful year.

In 2011, a total of 17,097 employees completed the annual transportation survey. Most responded on-line giving us a whopping 90 percent response rate. Carpooling continues to be the favored rideshare mode of commuting by most County employees. We now have 15 percent of employees who no longer drive alone to work, but have instead switched to carpooling, vanpooling, riding their bicycle, taking the bus, train or telecommuting.

We distributed a total of 1,747 monthly Metrolink passes in 2011 and processed

more than 721 monthly OCTA passes for our faithful bus riders - that's a 10 percent increase over the previous year. And a record number of employees signed up for the County's Commuter Choice pre-tax program - a 30 percent increase over 2010.

We also had a 14 percent increase in the number of employees requesting complimentary Metrolink day-passes and a 19 percent increase in employees requesting complementary OCTA one-day passes as part of our Try the Train and/or Bus programs that allow employees to take public transit to work for one or two days to see if it works for them.

In 2011 we processed 98 applications from employees who reside in the Inland Empire, who rideshare to work, and qualify for the \$2/day incentive provided by RCTC/SANBAG. That was an increase of 9 percent over the previous year and an average payout of \$115 in Vons Gift Cards. Congratulations and thank you for your efforts!

The Commuter Assistance Program will host a vanpool information meeting on March 1, 2012. Invitations will be sent to all employees on the Car/Vanpool Classifieds list (article two on this page). Learn about organizing or joining a vanpool. Submit an [All-in-One](#) form to be added to the list.

New Car/Vanpool Classifieds Available

The Car/Vanpool Classifieds list is now updated with new commuter data as a result of the recent annual transportation survey.

If you are looking for fellow employees that want to carpool or may be interested in joining a vanpool, then this list is for you! The Car/Vanpool Classifieds is sorted by home city and work location and shows the first name and work phone numbers of interested co-workers – the home address is never listed.

Simply log onto the County's HR Portal and look under General Resources for a link to the list. If you would like to be added to the list, please complete the [All-In-One](#) application form. The car/vanpool classifieds list is also used to invite clusters of commuters to attend vanpool information meetings like the one scheduled for March 1, 2012.

Regional, State and National Rideshare Events for 2012

Feb 26 - Mar 3	Telecommuters Appreciation Week sponsored by the American Telecommuting Association
Month of Apr	Earthquake Preparedness Month reminds us to be ready for commuting in crisis conditions www.oes.ca.gov or your local Red Cross
Apr 22	Earth Day www.earthday.org
Month of May	May is Clean Air Month sponsored by the American Lung Association
May 14 - 18	Bike to Work Week
Jun 18 - 21	Dump the Pump Week sponsored by OCTA and the American Public Transportation Association
Oct 1 - 5	California Rideshare Week encourages commuters to try ridesharing



Check the County's [Rideshare Web pages](#) for rideshare events scheduled throughout the year.

New Get-a-Charge-On-Us Program

The County of Orange Rideshare program is now offering \$100 to employees who lease or purchase battery electric vehicles (EV) to commute to work. This Get-a-Charge-On-Us program encourages employees to consider EVs by offsetting the initial increase in their electricity bill. Employees simply complete the [All-In-One](#) application and attach a copy of their lease and/or purchase agreement.

To qualify, the vehicle must run on electricity stored in batteries, have an electric motor and not a gasoline engine. EVs are zero emission cars because they have no internal combustion engine so they have no tailpipe exhaust and no



evaporative emissions from the fuel system. Manufacturers have developed different types of EVs that include:

Neighborhood Electric Vehicles that can be used for short trips around town since they can only go on roads with a posted speed limit of 35 mpg or lower.

Full Function EVs that can go up to 80 miles an hour and can travel between 70 and 100 miles per a full charge.

Click [here](#) for a list of EV cars that may qualify for the Get-a-Charge-On-Us program.

Did You Know...

As a new feature of the free regional ride matching system, you can now request to be notified of any matches for a carpool that might arise as new commuters sign up or update their commuting information. You can have the most up-to-date ridematching info delivered to you via email whenever a new match appears. For more details, visit www.ridematch.info.

Park & Ride Lot Closes!

The Park & Ride lot at 29385 Rancho California Road, Temecula is closed and no longer available to carpooler or vanpoolers. Parking at this lot is now prohibited and may result in vehicles being towed – please use an alternate Park & Ride lot. For a complete list of Park & Ride lots, go to www.ie511.org.

Local Incentives to Drive Clean and Green

Looking to reduce your carbon footprint, save money at the gas station or just contribute less to air pollution? Well, this is your guide to the cleanest, most efficient cars on the market.

Besides clean technology and alternative fuel vehicles being good for the environment, they also come with benefits, conveniences and savings that often go along with driving clean.

Vehicles that have a "Smog Score" of 9 (also known as "PZEV" or "AT PZEV") in California come with a 15 year/150,000 mile warranty on the emissions system. Auto manufacturers are required by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to offer this warranty in order to guarantee that these vehicles will be just as clean in 15 years as they were the day they were first purchased. There is a large variety of makes and models with these great warranties starting as far back as vehicles produced in the year 2000, and ranging in technologies from standard gasoline vehicles, to hybrids and compressed natural gas vehicles.



Rebates, discounts, tax breaks and other incentives are common to alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles. Several Southern California cities also have rebates for their residents who purchase green cars. Here are some of them:

City of Corona residents may be eligible for a program that rebates \$2,000 for the purchase of a new qualified alternative fuel vehicle or \$1,000 for a qualified used vehicle, while funds last. Vehicles must be powered by Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), electric/battery (EV) or a non-diesel hybrid and meet emission standards set by CARB. Rebates are only available to licensed drivers living in the City of Corona and vehicles must be purchased from an auto dealership authorized to do business within the City of Corona. Contact the City of Corona Public Works Department for more information at 951-736-2266 or click [here](#) for more information.

City of Riverside residents are eligible to receive a rebate toward the purchase of qualified battery electric (full size, like the Nissan Leaf), natural gas, hybrid electric Advanced Technology Partial Zero Emission Vehicles (AT PZEV), with a Smog Score of 9 purchased from a Riverside automobile dealership. New qualified vehicles can receive up to \$2,000 and used qualified vehicles can receive up to \$1,000. Contact the City of Riverside Public Works Ad-



ministration for more information at 951-351-6140 or click [here](#) for more information.

The State of California offers rebates of up to \$5,000 per light-duty vehicle that may be available for individuals who purchase or lease new eligible zero-emission or plug-in vehicles, until the funding runs out. Plug-in hybrids qualify for rebates up to \$3,000, and electric motorcycles and neighborhood electric vehicles up to \$1,500. Vehicles must have been purchased or leased after March 15, 2010. More details regarding this program are available at auto dealerships.

You may also get a discount on your insurance coverage. Some insurers offer up to a 10 percent discount on auto insurance for hybrid autos or alternative-fuel vehicles, including gas-electric hybrids, electric only, natural gas, ethanol, methanol, and propane.

To learn more about these incentives and other information, go to www.driveclean.ca.gov. Whether it's the ability to drive solo in the carpool lane, enjoy free parking or free vehicle charging, driving clean and green makes good sense.

Commuter Club Quarterly Winners!

Every quarter we randomly select eight Commuter Club members who each receive a \$25 gift certificate. This quarter's winners are:

- **Lorraine Flores**, Child Support Services
- **Anne Gwynn**, Social Services Agency
- **Veronica Llamas**, Health Care Agency
- **Natalie Baker**, Child Support Services
- **Rachael Tyson**, OC Public Works
- **Brian Maurer**, Auditor-Controller
- **Jose Mendez**, Sheriff/Coroner
- **Rachael Tyson**, OC Public Works



Congratulations! If you are ridesharing at least five days per month, you too can become a member of the Commuter Club. Just complete the [All-In-One](#) application and we'll enroll you!

Metrolink Monthly Pass Changes



Employees that purchase Metrolink monthly passes through the payroll deduction process will soon have a better way to get their tickets!

Participating employees will be issued a Metrolink Corporate Quick Card (CQC) to retrieve their monthly passes/tickets directly from the Metrolink Ticket Vending Machines (TVM) at any station! Instead of mailing passes to the employees each month, the individual CQCs will be loaded electronically by the Rideshare Office with the amounts needed to retrieve tickets at the TVM. Payment for the passes/tickets will still be through payroll deductions and there is no extra cost for the CQC. These cards do not expire so it will still be up to the employee to notify the Rideshare office when routes are changed, to stop the payroll deductions or to report lost cards. The CQC program is scheduled to launch this spring.

If you are tired of driving in traffic and want to give Metrolink a try, you can request a free 4-trip ticket through the Try the Train on Us program – simply complete the [All-in-One](#) application and we'll get you started!



Depending upon your department's internal policy, the social media links (Facebook and Twitter) may or may not be accessed or viewed

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The OC Commuter Newsletter is published by the Commuter Assistance Program Office managed by the Human Resources Department. Our mission is to distribute commuter information to all County of Orange employees so that they can make informed decisions about how they travel to work. For more information about the Commuter Assistance Program, please go to the web site.