

EMPLOYER SERVICES

Transportation Events

We customize outreach events at your worksite. We offer a wide range of information services and hands-on commuter assistance programs to meet your employees' individual needs. Transit information, carpool matching, and vanpool formation are just a few of the services our Outreach Coordinators can provide when you host a Transportation Day at your worksite.

Tax Incentives

The federal transportation law includes the Commuter Choice initiative, which allows employers to offer pre-tax purchases for transit passes, vanpooling or parking benefits. CommuteSmart can show you how this works and help lower your payroll taxes.

Parking Management

Birmingham's successful growth brings a frustrating side effect – parking problems. Our Outreach Coordinators will evaluate your parking situation and offer suggestions to lessen the expense. Employers can encourage ridesharing by offering preferential parking to carpoolers and vanpoolers.

Flexible Scheduling

Flexible work hours, compressed workweeks, and staggered start times are all strategies to help reduce the amount of time people waste sitting in traffic during the traditional rush hours. These flexible time arrangements allow employees and managers to structure their core working hours outside of the standard 8am - 5pm schedule.

Let CommuteSmart show you how flexible time arrangements can help you maximize productivity and improve recruitment.

Teleworking

Technology now makes it easier for some employees to work remotely – reducing the need for a daily commute to the office. Teleworking can help improve productivity, reduce costs, minimize space requirements, and enhance employee morale. CommuteSmart Coordinators can help you structure and implement the right program to fit your business needs.



EMPLOYER RESOURCES

Employers may not realize how much they influence their employees' commuting habits. Your CommuteSmart Outreach Coordinator will provide free assistance in tailoring a program to your company's specific needs.

We come to your work site, meet with you, and help you structure a program that works best to get your employees out of their individual vehicles or out of rush hour traffic.

COMMUTER SERVICES

Carpooling

Carpooling is a great way to get to and from work. You can save money, reduce wear and tear on your vehicle, and help the environment by reducing air pollution. Another great benefit is that you take the stress out of driving alone. When you share the driving, you arrive at your destination refreshed and ready to start the day. Your commuting cost can drop 50%, and you may be eligible to save on insurance costs.

Vanpooling

Vanpools can be formed when seven to 15 employees catch a ride together to and from work each day in a comfortable passenger van. You will drastically cut your commuting costs, reduce wear and tear on your car, and save time. You may also be eligible to save on insurance payments and qualify for tax benefits.

Transit

Taking transit is a great way for commuters to save money as well as wear and tear on their vehicles. Also, they can use the commute to read or relax. Employers who accommodate transit find they can expand their labor pool to better recruit workers.

Cost Calculator

How much does your daily commute cost? CommuteSmart's Commute Costs Calculator allows you to determine exactly what that cost is and how much money you could be saving by participating in a carpool or vanpool.

Emergency Ride Home

Commuters who rideshare or use transit have one common concern "what do I do in an emergency?" In the event of a personal or family emergency, or if required to work unscheduled overtime, commuters who transit, bike or walk at least two times per week can get reimbursed for a taxi ride home up to five times per year. Contact your CommuteSmart Outreach Coordinator today to receive more information about this program.

Walking and Bicycling

Walking and bicycle commuting are great ways to save gas and squeeze regular exercise into a hectic schedule. If you choose an easy pace, you'll find cycling no more strenuous than walking. CommuteSmart also hosts regular Effective Cycling courses. Learn how to cycle safely and confidently on local roadways through an Effective Cycling course.

Online Ridematching

Use our web-based, online ridematching system to locate potential rideshare partners instantly. CommuteSmart maintains a database of individuals who live and work in the region and have expressed a desire to commute to work via carpooling or vanpooling. Our database uses a person's home address, work address and work hours to find others who live and work near them and have similar schedules.

The CommuteSmart program, sponsored by the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, was created to help alleviate traffic congestion and reduce air pollution in Jefferson and Shelby counties. CommuteSmart encourages individuals to change their commuting habits as well as educates them on cleaner modes of transportation. Some of these methods include carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling, walking, and mass transit.



AIR QUALITY

CommuteSmart's website, www.commutessmart.org, offers daily "Air Quality Forecasts" for particle pollution and ozone. Ozone Season runs from May 1st through September 30th. Ozone can limit the ability to take a deep breath, and it can cause coughing, throat irritation, and breathing discomfort.



Particle Pollution, or $PM_{2.5}$, is a year round pollutant for Jefferson and Shelby counties. Meteorologists use the color-coded chart below to forecast air quality, which are broadcast through the local media. Called the AQI (Air Quality Index), the chart indicates the particle pollution levels and the health impacts of each.

Air Quality Guide for Particle Pollution	Air Quality Index Health Advisory	Health Impact
Good	0-50	None
Moderate	51-100	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	Air Quality Alert: People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy	151-200	Air Quality Alert: People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
Very Unhealthy	201-300	Air Quality Alert: People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS

Effective Operations and Maintenance (O&M) is one of the most cost-effective methods for ensuring reliability, safety, and energy efficiency. Improvements to facility maintenance programs can often be accomplished immediately and at a relatively low cost. They will help not only with cleaner air, but also with the bottom line as well.

There are various operations and maintenance programs and policies that employers can implement on Air Quality Action Days, for the entire Ozone Season or throughout the year.

Here are some examples of O&M programs:

- Use low emission or alternatively fueled vehicles.
- Improve facility energy efficiency.
- Delay or reschedule lawn maintenance & landscaping activities after 6pm on Air Quality Alert Days.
- Reschedule the use of construction equipment and small diesel generators or boilers for evenings or avoid on Air Quality Alert Days.
- Purchase Energy Star certified equipment, programmable thermostats and energy-efficient lighting.
- Ask employees to turn off lights, computers, printers and other office equipment when not in use.

COMMUTESMART PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM LEVELS

CommuteSmart offers recognition to employers who are making strides in protecting our environment through reduced traffic congestion and improved air quality. Join the list of premier businesses being recognized as CommuteSmart partners.



Partnering with CommuteSmart signifies your commitment to improving area traffic congestion and air quality. The benefits of partnership include priority access to new products and services, access to free training seminars throughout Jefferson and Shelby counties that affect your workplace, and positive public relations opportunities through media exposure and collaborative marketing. Partner with CommuteSmart today!

COMMUNITY PARTNER — Sign on to be an official partner

BRONZE PARTNER — Must offer three commute options or Operation & Maintenance programs, two of which are already determined from the list below:

- Sign on to be an official partner
- Appoint an onsite Employer Transportation Coordinator (ETC)
- Host commuter events through CommuteSmart
- Place information in a new hire packet
- Promote commute options at the worksite through memos, postings, e-mails, intranets, etc.
- Install bike racks/storage units
- Offer an informal flextime program
- Offer an informal teleworking program

SILVER PARTNER — Meets Bronze Partner requirements plus three additional programs from the list below:

- Host vanpool formation meetings
- Sell onsite transit passes
- Provide payroll deductions for transit and/or vanpooling
- Provide showers or lockers for bikers and walkers
- Offer a formal teleworking program
- Provide a transit subsidy
- Offer a formal flextime program
- Offer a compressed workweek program
- Offer financial incentives for alternative commuters
- Offer an Emergency Ride Home program
- Provide preferential parking for vanpoolers/carpoolers
- Sponsor shuttle services for employees

GOLD PARTNER — Meets Silver Member Partner requirements plus three additional programs from the list above.