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Rideshare to Save the Environment

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Carpooling, also known as ridesharing, is when at least two people share a vehicle, and is a great way to save fuel and time. The benefits of carpooling are plenty including increased productivity and lower levels of stress caused by driving. Why not see how carpooling fits into your regular transportation routine?

Quick Guide: Carpooling Facts and **Benefits**

- \$5,500 annual savings by carpooling: That's for those driving an average of 15,000 miles annually, including lower cost of fuel, vehicle insurance, routine check-ups, tires, and loan charges."
- 502 gallons of gas saved annually: That's for two people sharing a 50-mile carpool ride during the weekdays. [ii]
- 220,000 tons less CO2 and other air emissions: Carpoolers can lower CO2 and hydrocarbons by up to 220,000 tons each year. [iii]
- Carpoolers are more productive: People who join carpooling have less stressful commutes and end up being more productive throughout the day, and spend the time productively (when not driving) reading, doing work, learning languages, and accessing social media sites.[V]
- Preferential parking spaces: Some universities and offices have preferred parking spaces for carpools in order to incentivize the habit of ride sharing. [vi]

Take Action! Top Online Rideshare Providers

- 1. The Rideshare Company: A non-profit organization and the third biggest carpool operator in the US. The company services about 5,000 carpoolers everyday.
- 2. EasyStreet: An off-shoot of The Rideshare Company, they have about 4,500 people on their vanpools everyday (up to 15 people per ride) and they provide services to at least 400 different routes.
- 3. Ridester: A database of people who are either offering rides or looking for rides. Commuters search for a particular zip code or find special accommodations if necessary. Each member of the Ridester community is also given feedback ratings.
- 4. Carpoolworld: A carpooling website based on a map of the world allowing you to narrow your rideshare choices. Carpoolworld will come up with a list of matches and the people on the match list can be contacted via email or telephone.
- 5. eRideshare: Lets you click on a particular city or state to view listings of available carpools in that area. After you have chosen the carpool listing that works for you, you can begin to contact that eRideshare member provided that you have an account as well.
- 6. RoadSharing: Use the site to look for a ride or offer a lift by searching for arrival, departure, cost, and more.
- 7. Start a carpooling program of your own: Can't find a carpool option in your area? Check out our guide on how to start a carpooling program.

Dig Deeper: Carpools and the Environment

Compute carpool savings via the National Geographic Channel.

Images By: Richard Drdul

References

References

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