

Carpool Commuting Basics

Carpooling can be an great way of making your commute less stressful, less costly, and more fun!! You can get to know your neighbours or co-workers while reducing single-occupancy vehicle use – one of the largest sources of personal greenhouse gas emissions.

Benefits of Carpooling

Carpooling will produce many benefits for your wallet, your health and our environment! Reducing single-occupancy vehicle use reduces air pollution, fuel consumption and traffic congestion. With less traffic on the roads, you will not only get to work faster but you'll arrive with less stress.

Did you know the average Canadian commuter spends \$7500 per year or \$15 per day to operate his or her car?! Carpooling can help reduce these costs by sharing them with other commuters.

Curious to see how much you could save? Calculate your own personal annual savings at:

www.carpool.ca/calculator.asp

The Canadian Automobile Association's brochure *Driving Costs* (www.caa.ca/e/automotive/driving-costs.shtml) will also help you calculate how much it costs to own and operate your vehicle yearly. It details factors that affect the cost of driving, including: vehicle type, driving style and where you live. You'll be surprised how much you spend! Set some goals to reduce these costs by carpooling.

Cost is one good reason to reduce unnecessary vehicle use. Health is another. Researchers continue to uncover evidence linking poor air quality to several respiratory illnesses, including asthma and emphysema. Episodes occur more often and numbers of sufferers have increased due to increased exposure to air pollutants.

(Children are particularly vulnerable. See our Factsheet: *Air Quality and Children's Health*.) Vehicle emissions also contribute greatly to climate change, a serious environmental problem that has the potential to drastically change our ecosystem.

By sharing a ride with a friend or three, carpooling helps to reduce the grave impact that private automobiles have on our environment.



Want to Start a Carpool?

Here are THREE EASY STEPS to starting a workplace carpool:

1. Post a map of Peterborough city and county in a busy area like a lunch room or lobby. Include some paper and pins.
2. Ask people to write their names and phone numbers on a piece of paper and pin it on the map where they want to go. They should also indicate if they want to be a driver, passenger, or both!
3. Post a sign informing people they can call the numbers on the board to arrange a carpool.



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(705) 745-3238
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Getting Organized

Thinking through the details is essential to an organized, successful and happy carpool! There are a few things that must be discussed once you've found your carpool members. This checklist provides a few of the nuts and bolts:

- Who will drive and when?
- Where are the pick-up and drop-off locations?
- When are the pick-up and drop-off times?
- Decide how long the waiting time will be for late passengers. (Two to three minutes is the standard.)
- Have a back-up plan! What do you do if someone is sick or missing work. Create a line of communication and ensure everyone has all home, work and cell phone numbers.
- Be sure to give fellow carpoolers notice of all vacation, personal or overtime plans with the potential to change the traveling routine.
- Determine ground rules on such things as:
 - Eating, drinking and smoking in the car
 - Music and radio stations
 - Seating arrangements
 - Car maintenance and cleanliness
 - Discuss allergies (perfumes, scents, peanuts etc.)
- Draw up a list, agreed upon by the members, on driver responsibilities.
- Establish how costs will be shared. Agree on how costs will be collected and *stick to it!*
- Notify your insurance company. Be sure to find out if your policy offers a rate reduction for carpooling.
- Check for preferential, free or reduced parking for carpoolers.
- Drive carefully and keep the car clean, in good repair and filled with enough gas for each trip. There should be no excuses for excessive speed, use of alcohol, or driving dangerously.

Be patient and give your carpool time! It often takes a few weeks to work out the bugs and get your carpool running smoothly. Once you get to know your fellow riders and get into a routine, you'll appreciate the benefits of carpooling!

Remember Your Etiquette

It's all about the little things... nothing will disrupt your carpool like people with bad manners! Being late happens, but don't make it a habit! And the carpool serves one function- the ride to work. Save your side trips to the grocery or corner store for the weekends!

Resources:

The City of Ottawa TravelWise

www.city.ottawa.on.ca/city_services/traffic/26_1_8_en.shtml

Canada's Carpooling Service

www.carpooltool.ca

For more information on local transportation programs and resources contact Peterborough Green-Up at 745-3238 or visit:

www.peterboroughmoves.com

Take the One-Tonne Challenge!

Peterborough Green-Up joins the Government of Canada in encouraging Peterborough citizens to reduce their personal greenhouse gas contribution! This sounds bigger than it is! Remember, the average Canadian produces 5 tonnes of greenhouse gases per year - 50% of this is from transportation! Let's walk, bike and bus our way to a healthier climate! Learn more at:

www.climatechange.gc.ca 



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