

Before the Transportation Meeting

- Review the EnAct Transportation Chapter.
- Think about sustainable transportation actions your household is currently taking, and what actions you would like to learn more about or start taking.
- (optional) You may contact any of the organizations listed in the Resources section for additional information to present to your team.
- (optional) You may plan a demonstration or activity from the list below.
- Contact your team members a few days before the meeting. Remind them of the time and place, and ask them to bring the Transportation Chapter and a calendar with them. The meeting will last from one to one and a half hours.

Meeting Agenda

- 15 minutes - Round Robin: what actions did everyone take since the last meeting?
(If this is the first unit your team is doing, then talk about what they learned when filling out the Baseline Survey.)
- 5 minutes - Overview of the Transportation Chapter: why is it important to make sustainable transportation choices?
- 20-30 minutes - Demonstration, activity, or guest speaker (optional)
- 10 minutes - Team members look through the Transportation Chapter and think about what actions they want to take. Instruct everyone to write down their intended actions in the spaces provided on their copy of the TAKE ACTION form (on the other side of this page).
- 15 minutes - Round Robin: what actions are everyone going to take before the next meeting?
- 10 minutes - Plan next meeting date. Remind everyone to mail in their Baseline Survey if they haven't already and to start working on their Results Survey.

Optional Demonstrations / Activities

- Do a "walking audit" to document the walkability and bikeability of your neighborhood. Walk around the neighborhood with your EnAct team and record information on sidewalks, crosswalks, driver behavior, etc. Sample checklists are available to download at: www.pedbikeinfo.org/tools.htm.
- Keep a log of your transportation behavior for a week and see how many miles you drive, walk, bike, and bus.
- Calculate your weekly or monthly transportation expenses. How much do you spend on various types of transportation? Where might you be able to save money?
- Ask around within your team about peoples' commuting habits. Do any of you go to work in the same direction? Could you share a ride one or two days a week?

These are just a few suggestions... Please feel free to think of your own ideas.

TAKE ACTION

EnAct - TRANSPORTATION

To make the biggest impact, focus on the following actions:

- * Eliminate unnecessary car trips. Walk, bike or take the Belle Urban System to your destinations whenever possible.
- * Consider "divorcing" your car or second car.
- * If you're buying a car, purchase a used car or a car that gets high gas mileage.
- * If you're moving, choose a place to live that reduces your need to drive.

Please use the space below to record actions you plan to take to reduce your household's transportation impacts.

Actions to take before next meeting:

Long-term actions:

Meeting notes/ideas:

Why should we reduce our car use?

Reducing our use of automobiles is one of the most powerful actions we can take to alleviate local and global environmental problems. According to a comprehensive study by the Union of Concerned Scientists, driving cars causes more damage to the environment -- in terms of air and water pollution, global warming, and habitat alteration -- than any other consumer behavior.



Here in southeastern Wisconsin, the environmental impacts of our automobile use are becoming evident. Racine County, Kenosha County and Milwaukee County are classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as nonattainment areas, meaning that air pollution levels persistently exceed the national ambient air quality standards for pollutants including ozone, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide. Each summer, Ozone Action Days alert us when pollution reaches an unhealthy level and can cause shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing, and eye and nose irritation. Children, the elderly, people with asthma and people who exercise outside are particularly at risk.

On the positive side, transportation planners are thinking regionally to increase transit options in southeastern Wisconsin. Urban transit systems and regional trains and buses offer safe, convenient and affordable alternatives to driving. Area Park & Ride lots ease the stress of driving in traffic. Bicycle pathways connect many areas of the greater Racine area. In August 2005, \$80 million in federal funding was designated for the development of a Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Commuter Rail, a new 33-mile extension of Metra's Union Pacific North line (that now ends in Kenosha) to Milwaukee's Amtrak station. It will provide an alternative to the congested freeway system and will help create more transportation and economic links in southeastern Wisconsin.

By choosing alternatives to car travel, you will experience personal benefits to your health and quality of life, and you will save money. Rather than spending your morning commute alone in your car, consider spending that time walking or bicycling, reading the morning paper on the bus, or carpooling with friends. This extra time spent exercising, socializing, and enjoying the outdoors will improve your physical and mental health, and may even save you time and money spent at the gym. Take the money you save on gas and parking every week, and go to a concert, donate to charity, or treat a friend to lunch!

Reducing our car use also produces benefits beyond our personal health and well-being. By relying less on automobiles, we can save communities money by reducing the demand to build and maintain roads and parking structures, we can reduce our economy's dependence on nonrenewable resources, we can improve air and water quality, and we can help ensure a healthy future for our children.

Think About This

Car Use

Racine area commuters carpool slightly less than the national average. The proportion of commuters who drive alone is increasing, from 81% in 1990 to 84% in 2000. Less than 1% of commuters bike to work, and only 2% take public transportation.

Commute Modes	U.S (2000)	Racine County (1990)	Racine County (2000)
Drive alone	78%	81%	84%
Carpool	13%	11%	10%
Walk	3%	3%	2%
Public transportation	5%	2%	2%
Bicycle	<1%	<1%	<1%
Work at home		2%	2%

Climate Change

Greenhouse gas emissions, primarily carbon dioxide gas (CO₂) from automobiles, power plants, and industry, are the major source of global warming. The U.S., with only four percent of the world's population, is responsible for 22 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

For every gallon of gasoline burned while driving a car, 20 pounds of CO₂ are emitted into the atmosphere!

- Ford Expedition sport utility vehicle: 14 miles/gallon = 1.43 lbs CO₂/mile
- Subaru Outback Sport wagon: 21 miles/gallon = 0.95 lbs CO₂/mile
- Honda Civic sedan: 32 miles/gallon = 0.63 lbs CO₂/mile
- Toyota Prius hybrid-electric sedan: 52 miles/gallon = 0.38 lbs CO₂/mile
- Public bus: 4.5 miles per gallon / 20 passengers = 0.22 lbs CO₂ per passenger mile
- Biking or walking: 0 lbs CO₂/mile

Health

Asthma is the most common chronic illness for children. Asthma rates in the United States have nearly tripled in the last two decades resulting in particularly severe problems for urban youths. Scientific studies link asthma to air pollution (ground-level ozone) that comes from cars and industrial emissions.

Our society also suffers from the effects of a sedentary (car-dependent) lifestyle:

- 61% of adults in the United States are overweight or obese.
- 13% of children aged 6 to 11 years and 14% of adolescents aged 12 to 19 years are overweight.
- Less than 1/3 of adults engage in the recommended amounts of physical activity.
- 40% of adults in the United States do not participate in any leisure time physical activity.

(Source: U.S. Surgeon General)

RESOURCES

EnAct - TRANSPORTATION

Racine Area Transportation Services

The Belle Urban System (the BUS)

The Belle Urban System provides convenient fixed-route service and paratransit service (for disabled passengers unable to use fixed-route buses) for the city of Racine, Village of Mt. Pleasant, Village of Sturtevant, Town of Caledonia, Town of Yorkville, and UW at Parkside.

For route and schedule information, contact: The BUS, (262) 637-9000, www.racinetransit.com.

For additional information, contact: Mike Glasheen, City of Racine Transit Planner, (262) 636-9463, mike.glasheen@cityofracine.org.

Summer Trolley Service

The Summer Trolley is a fun and affordable way to get around downtown Racine in the summer. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, the trolley provides service to restaurants, pubs, the art district, the library, museums and other downtown attractions and costs only 25 cents per person.

www.racinetransit.com/trolley.aspx

Kenosha Transit System

With ten different fixed routes and fares only \$1.00, The Kenosha Transit System offers a safe, convenient and economical alternative to driving. Kenosha also has an electric streetcar system that links HarborPark and the Metra train station. For more information:

www.kenosha.org/departments/transportation, (262) 653-4290.

Park & Ride

In Racine, there is a Park & Ride lot at I94 and Hwy. 20 exit 333, and another at Hwy. 11 and Fancher Rd. On the way to Milwaukee, there are Park & Ride locations on the corner of I94 and Ryan Rd. and at the northeast corner of I94 and College Ave. More information is available at:

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/parkride or by calling (262) 548-8657.

Bicycle Paths

The Lake Michigan and Root River Bicycle Pathways provide access to many destinations in Racine, and they connect to regional trail systems. Information about Racine bicycle pathways can be found at:

www.cityofracine.org/depts/public_works/bicycle_paths.aspx

Southeast Wisconsin's Rideshare Program

Wisconsin's Rideshare Program brings commuters together by providing lists of possible carpool matches and leaving the rest to the commuters. Information on the rideshare program is available at:

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/commuter/rs-index.htm or by calling 1-800-455-POOL.

Regional Transportation

Wisconsin Coach Lines

Wisconsin Coach Lines run between Racine, Caledonia, Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Oak Creek, and connect to many other cities in the Midwest. Transfer from the Belle Urban System and get a \$1.00 discount on Wisconsin Coach Lines. Information on schedules and fares can be found at:

www.coachusa.com/wisconsincoach or by calling 1-800-236-2028.

Metra

Provides train service between Kenosha, downtown Chicago, and many stops in between, leaving Kenosha from 5414 13th Ave. More information is available at:

www.metrarail.com/Sched/cnw_n/cwnn.shtml#STATION

Greyhound Bus

The Greyhound bus covers about 2,600 destinations in Northern America.
(608) 257-3050 or (800) 231-2222, www.greyhound.com

Amtrak

The nearest Amtrak stations are: 2984 Wisconsin Street in Sturtevant and at Mitchell International Airport. (800) USA-RAIL, www.amtrak.com

Alternative Transportation Policy and AdvocacyBicycle Federation of Wisconsin

A statewide, nonprofit bicycle advocacy organization with more than 2,500 members.
1845 N Farwell Avenue, Suite 100, Milwaukee, WI 53202, (414) 271-9685, www.bfw.org

Wisconsin Walks

Wisconsin organization that promotes walking for transportation, recreation, and physical fitness, including heart health and weight reduction. www.wisconsinwalks.org

Southeastern Wisconsin Coalition for Transit NOW

Provides information and advocacy for the development of a Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Commuter Train.
P.O. Box 565, Sussex, WI 53089-0565, (262) 246-6151 www.transitnow.org

Wise Ride

A study on the feasibility, cost, and desirability of a Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Commuter Train.
www.sewrpc.org/wiseride

Sustainable Racine

A nonprofit, nonpartisan civic organization whose mission is to foster the sustainability of a strong economy, a healthy environment, and social equity. 413 Main Street, Racine, WI 53403, (262) 632-6440,
www.sustainable-racine.com

Transportation Websites and Books

Environmental and social records of gas stations - www.responsible shopper.org,
www.betterworldhandbook.com

Green car ratings - www.greenercars.com

Better World Travelers Club (alternative to AAA) - www.betterworldclub.com

Calculate the ecological impact of your transportation and other behavior - www.myfootprint.org

Alvord, Katie. 2000. Divorce Your Car! Gabriola Island, B.C., Canada: New Society Publishers.

Brower, Michael and Leon, Warren. 1999. The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices: Practical Advice from the Union of Concerned Scientists. New York: Three Rivers Press.

Engwicht, David. 1999. Street Reclaiming: Creating Livable Streets and Vibrant Communities. Gabriola Island, B.C., Canada: New Society Publishers.

Holtz Kay, Jane. 1997. Asphalt Nation: How the Automobile Took Over America and How We Can Take it Back. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Makower, Joel. 1992. The Green Commuter. Washington: National Press Books.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

EnAct - TRANSPORTATION

Think Before You Go

People who don't own cars are accustomed to thinking about how they will get from point A to point B. For those of us who own cars, however, it's so easy to just hop in the car for every trip that we often forget about other options. The first step in changing transportation behavior is simple: think before you go.

- * The star denotes high-impact actions.
- ✋ The little hand denotes kid-friendly activities!

* Before getting in the car, ask yourself:

- Is a car really necessary for this trip (e.g. to carry things), or could I use another method?
- Is there a way to get what I need within walking or biking distance?
- Can I combine this trip with other errands?
- Do I really need to make this trip at all?
- Can I use this trip as an opportunity to get some exercise, and walk or bicycle instead of driving?

Taking Urban and Regional Transit

The Belle Urban System offers a wonderful alternative to driving for Racine area residents. It accesses many locations in the Racine area and offers different types of services including a trolley and paratransit service. The Kenosha Transit System also offers a safe and efficient means to get around town. The system includes 10 bus routes and four electric streetcar routes.

In addition, Wisconsin Coach Lines, Metra, and Amtrak provide access to cities in the region, including Chicago, Milwaukee, and Madison.

By taking the bus even some of the time, you will save hundreds of dollars a year on gas, parking, and car maintenance. You can use the time on the bus to read a book or newspaper, enjoy the social atmosphere, balance your checkbook, do a crossword puzzle, or just relax. Relish the freedom of letting someone else do the driving!

First Steps

- Check out a map of the bus routes and schedules. For Belle Urban System route and schedule information, visit www.racinetransit.com/routes_and_schedules.aspx or call (262) 637-9000. For Kenosha route and schedule information, visit www.kenosha.org/departments/transportation/ or call (262) 653-4290.



Racine's Belle Urban System provides an affordable, safe, and reliable transportation option.



The City of Kenosha provides refurbished electric streetcars linking HarborPark and the Metra station.

- * Find the bus routes and schedules for trips you make regularly (work, gym, church, school). Post these schedules in an easily accessible place in your house (by the door, on the fridge, etc.).
- Decide what fare option is best for you. The Belle Urban System offers several options, including a 10-ride ticket book (\$11), a regular monthly pass with unlimited rides (\$40), a disabled monthly pass with unlimited rides (\$25), or a super weekend pass (\$2.50). The Kenosha Transit System offers a monthly pass (\$28) and a Saturday Super Transfer pass (\$2). Special fares for youths, seniors, and people with disabilities are listed on the websites and inside the buses. Passes are available for purchase at more than 20 sales outlets in the Racine and Kenosha areas.

Next Steps

- * 🖐️ Ride the bus with your kids. Most kids love the adventure and they may start a lifetime habit of bus riding. Children under 5 ride free, and youths age 5-17 travel at discounted fares.
- Enjoy a night out using Racine Trolley's Pub & Grub service. On Friday and Saturday evenings, the trolley provides transportation to more than 15 downtown restaurants, numerous pubs and taverns and two theaters, for only \$0.25 per ride.
- 🖐️ Try taking Wisconsin Coach Lines for your next out-of-town trip. Wisconsin Coach Lines can take you from a number of stops in Racine County to numerous locations in Milwaukee for only \$5! It also serves many other cities in the Midwest. Visit www.coachusa.com/wisconsincoach or call 1-800-236-2028 for details.

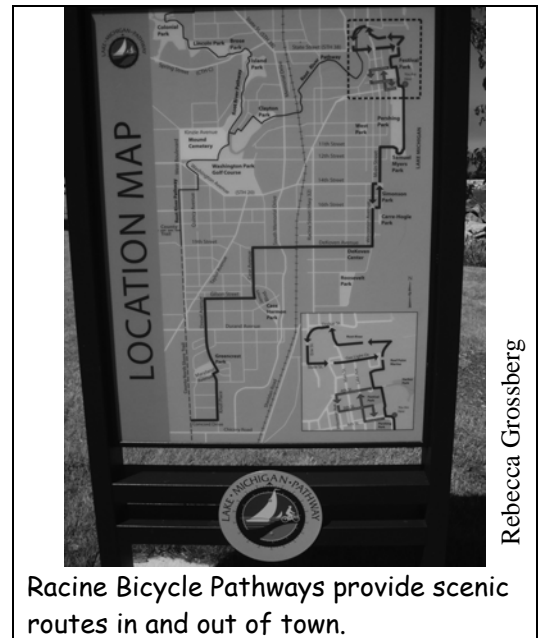


Rebecca Grossberg

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, Racine's Trolley services the downtown area for just \$0.25 per ride.

Projects

- △ Use area Park & Ride lots to minimize the amount of time you have to spend driving in traffic. Park your car for free, then hop on a bus to your destination. Within Racine, park at the lot at I94 and Hwy 20 exit 333 or Hwy 11 and Fancher Rd. When traveling to Milwaukee, consider parking at one of the Park & Ride locations on the corner of I94 and Ryan Rd or at the northeast corner of I94 and College Ave and taking the bus into the city. More information is available at: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/parkride/ or by calling (262) 548-8657.
- △ Travel to Chicago via mass transit. Take Amtrak from Sturtevant, or take Wisconsin Coach Lines to Kenosha and take Metra from Kenosha to Chicago. Try both options and decide which works best for you. Schedules can be found at: www.metrarail.com/Sched/cnw_n/cwn.shtml#STATION and www.amtrak.com.
- △ Travel to Madison by bus. Take Wisconsin Coach Lines to the Milwaukee Bus Depot, then pick up Badger Bus to Madison. Schedules at www.badgerbus.com
- △ Get involved in the planning process for the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Commuter Rail. Contact Sustainable Racine or Transit NOW to learn more (see Resources).



Rebecca Grossberg

Racine Bicycle Pathways provide scenic routes in and out of town.

Biking and Walking

First Steps



- *👉 Do an experiment and walk or bike ride somewhere you have not considered walking or biking to before: a friend's house, a store, or a restaurant, for example. How long does it take? How do you feel?
- Find a bike that is comfortable for you. There are several good bicycle stores in the Racine area where helpful staff can help you decide.
- Register your bike with the City of Racine Police Department, it's free! Registration available online at: www.racinecounty.com/bike
- Pick up a free Racine Bicycle Pathways map from the Office of the Mayor at Racine City Hall, 730 Washington Ave. or download it at www.cityofracine.org/depts/public_works/bicycle_paths.aspx
- 👉 Attach lights to the front and back of your bike for riding in the dark. It is city law that you must have front and back lights. They will make you much more visible to drivers. And wear a helmet!
- Tune up your bike regularly (at least twice a year), so it is safe and comfortable to ride.
- 👉 Bike or walk whenever the distance you are traveling is less than one mile (15 minutes walking, 5 minutes biking).
- Choose stores and restaurants close to home so you can bike or walk there.
- 👉 Bike or walk with friends or family to the farmers' market and other downtown festivals. These events are much easier to enjoy when you have a bike. You don't have to wait in line for parking and you can always find bike parking right in front of the place you are going to. And it's FREE!
- Tell your friends what you're doing. They may want to try it too and will think about their own transportation habits.

Next Steps


- *👉 Bike or walk whenever the distance you are traveling is less than two miles (30 minutes walking, 10 minutes biking).
- Attach a rack, baskets or pannier bags to your bicycle. Removing the weight from your back will make biking much more comfortable and you won't be as sweaty when you arrive at your destination!
- Find a bike buddy in your neighborhood -- someone to commute with or go out with. You can support each other in your new habits.
- 👉 Choose social and recreational opportunities close to home so you can bike or walk there.
- For bike commuting, bring a change of clothes (and a towel, if necessary) to your work place.
- If you can't bike all the way to your destination, take your bike in your car, park in a central location, and bike around once you are there.
- Challenge yourself and bike or walk somewhere further than you thought you would go.
- *👉 Walk or bicycle with your kids to school.



Racine resident Mark Geise commutes to work by bus or bike, and he rides his recumbent bike for errands. He tries to bike whenever the distance is less than five miles, in all kinds of weather.

-  Bring your kids with you to do errands on foot or by bicycle (this will accustom them to these habits at an early age).
-  Try getting around via more creative means: cross-country skiing, rollerblading, canoeing, etc.

Projects

- △ Do a "walking audit" to document the walkability and bikeability of your neighborhood. Walk around the neighborhood with your EnAct team and record information on sidewalks, crosswalks, driver behavior, etc. Sample checklists are available to download at: www.pedbikeinfo.org/tools.htm
- △ Consider biking in the winter. It can be beautiful, invigorating, and comfortable as long as you are dressed appropriately. Get a warm pair of mittens or gloves. Layer your clothes. Cover your ears and face with a scarf or wear a ski mask.
- △  Buy or borrow a bike trailer to transport young children.
- △ For longer trips, or if bicycle riding is difficult for you, consider buying an electric bike: www.electric-bikes.com.
- △ * Organize your life so you live close to where you work. You'll be more likely to bike or walk, and if you drive you'll use less gas.



Carpooling

First Steps

- Combine errands to avoid short trips.
- Carpool to parties. It is more fun, and safer if you plan to drink. Be sure to designate a driver.
- Carpool to do clothes shopping and other errands especially where it would be fun to have a friend along.
- Offer to pick up friends when going to a common place.

Next Steps

- Carpool to kids' activities. Share the time and responsibility with other parents.
- * Register for the Southeast Wisconsin Rideshare Matching Program. This service will let you know of other commuters in your area who may be able to share a ride with you, even once in a while. There is no obligation. Visit www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/commuter/rs-index.htm or call (262) 521-5454 for information.

Projects

- △ * Create a carpool board at your workplace and commute to work together.



Creating Carpooling Connections At the Office

"I suggested the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) set up a 'ride board'. Many state employees drive to meetings, conferences, etc. separately, when they could ride together. Riding with other DHFS employees is a good way to get to know them and learn about the projects they are working on. The DHFS implemented my suggestion, and there's a link on the main intranet screen.

- Jennifer Hayes, Madison

- △ Talk to your employer about offering incentives for alternative transportation. They could subsidize bus passes, offer Guaranteed Ride Home vouchers, or set up a "parking cash-out" system that gives employees the option of either a parking space or the partial cash value of the parking space added to their paycheck. For assistance with workplace transportation options, contact the Wisconsin DOT's rideshare program, www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/commuter/employer.htm or call at (262) 521-5454.
- △ Set a limit for yourself in terms of dollars per month you can spend on gas, or miles you can drive per week. For example, if you drive an average of 100 miles per week, set your limit at 75 miles. Try to use other means of transportation for the rest of your trips.

Driving Your Car

First Steps

- Avoid wasting fuel by pumping the gas pedal when starting the engine. If your car has fuel injection or is well tuned, it probably doesn't need any gas at all when starting. If your car has a carburetor it may need to be pumped once or twice.
- Accelerate slowly and smoothly.
- Remove extra weight from your car.
- Avoid idling. If you have to wait somewhere for more than a minute, turn the engine off. ("When your car is idling, it is getting *zero* miles per gallon!" according to *The Green Commuter*).
- Observe speed limits. Driving at 70 mph uses 25% more gas than driving at 55 mph.
- Minimize use of your air conditioner when driving around town. When traveling on highways, use air conditioning to improve mileage rather than opening windows.

Next Steps

- *Pick a day every week and make it your personal car-free day.
- Consider changing your roadside assistance and/or insurance provider to the Better World Travel Club: www.betterworldclub.com. This is an alternative to AAA, which lobbies for legislation that favors car transportation and seeks to limit financial support for bicycling.

Project

- △ Research your local gas stations and pick the one that has the best environmental and social record. Comparisons can be found at www.responsibleshopper.org and www.betterworldhandbook.com.



Homemade Fuel for \$1 per gallon

Racine residents Ken Dow and Jack Berry run their cars on homemade biodiesel that they make in Dow's garage using waste vegetable oil from area restaurants. When they start their engines, the only smell is that of hot oil, as if you're downwind of a restaurant. The fuel produces zero net greenhouse gas emissions, zero sulfur emissions, and less particulate matter ("soot") than diesel or gasoline. Operating the biodiesel processor is not hard, Dow says, and even people without much mechanical aptitude could do it. In the final analysis, Berry and Dow spend about \$1 per gallon of fuel. Another option that Berry is exploring is running his car on straight, unprocessed vegetable oil. This requires the addition of a second fuel tank and some minor modifications to the diesel engine.

Maintaining Your Car

A well-maintained car uses up to 10% less gas than a poorly maintained car. Consistent maintenance will also extend the life of the vehicle.

First Steps

- Change your oil regularly, according to the specifications in your owner's manual (usually every 5,000-6,000 miles). If you take your car to a mechanic or service station to change the oil, choose one who performs a general preventative check while changing the oil.
- If you change your motor oil yourself, take the oil to one of the many area locations that recycle used oil (see the A to Z Recycling Guide in the Solid Waste Chapter for details). If you take your car to a mechanic or service station to change the oil, ask them if they recycle the used oil.
- Read your car owner's manual. This will teach you how to best maintain your car and may inspire you to do some of the work yourself to save money.

"Greenest" Car Choices
(cars with "superior" ranking on greencars.com 2003)

2-Seaters

Honda Insight Hybrid

Subcompact Cars

Mini Cooper

Toyota Celica GT

Compact Cars

Toyota Prius

Honda Civic Hybrid

Acura RSX

Ford ZX2

Honda Civic GX

Honda Civic HX

Nissan Sentra

Toyota Echo

Wagons

Pontiac Vibe

Toyota Matrix

Ford Focus Wagon

Midsized/Large Cars

Honda Accord

Toyota Camry

Chevrolet Impala

Toyota Avalon

Minivans

Chrysler Voyager

Dodge Caravan

Pickup Trucks

Ford Ranger

Mazda B2300

Ford F-150

- Keep your tires inflated to the appropriate pressure for your car (usually between 26 and 35 psi). You can find out the appropriate pressure in your owner's manual or at www.drivegreen.com/pressureData.shtml. Keeping the tires in the higher end of the optimal range results in greater efficiency.
- Have your tires rotated, and have balance and alignment checked, twice a year.
- Retread your tires or buy used tires before buying new ones.

Project

- △ * Convert a diesel-powered vehicle to run on used vegetable oil. Conversion involves making modifications to the fuel tank and adding an extra fuel filter. See Joshua Tickell's book "From the Fryer to the Fuel Tank" or visit www.geocities.com/vwfatmobile to learn how to do it.

Purchasing a Car?

One of the largest environmental impacts of cars comes from the manufacturing process. Therefore it is smart to extend the life of your current car as long as possible before you buy a new one. However, if you do decide you need a new car:

- * Buy a used car instead of a new car.
- If you are shopping for a used car, be sure to have it inspected by a mechanic you trust. To find a quality used car in your area, try classified ads in the local paper or websites such as www.autotrader.com and www.cars.com.



Racine Resident John Berge with his 2004 Toyota Prius hybrid-electric car

Lila Berge

- *Choose a hybrid-electric car. Hybrids get close to 50 miles per gallon, and have much cleaner emissions than standard gasoline vehicles. Hybrids are more expensive than other cars though, so you will need to save up or be frugal in other areas to take on this expense. You may be eligible for a tax deduction for buying a hybrid.
- *If you cannot afford a hybrid-electric car, then research other models with high fuel efficiency, clean emissions, and long life. The box at the left presents the greenest cars of 2003, as rated by www.greenercars.com. For example, the Toyota Echo costs \$10,600 and gets 33-35 miles per gallon in the city and 39-43 miles per gallon on the highway.

Vacations and Long-Distance Travel

First Steps

- *Choose a vacation destination near your home.
- When traveling to Milwaukee or Chicago, take a bus or carpool with a friend. You will save money on parking and have time to relax on the bus (see Resource Section for regional bus companies).
- Carpool home with hometown friends for the holidays.
- Inform yourself about the environmental impacts of cruise ships, and choose more sustainable vacation options. Numerous cruise ships have been charged with destruction of coral reefs, oil discharges, and plastic and refuse dumping. For more information, see www.cruisejunkie.com.
- If you need to rent a car, consider EV Rental Cars. They rent hybrid-electric and natural gas vehicles in certain U.S. cities: www.evrental.com.

Next Steps

- If you are traveling somewhere by airplane, consider using public transportation, walking or bicycling, when you get there instead of renting a car (especially in East Coast cities and other areas where public transportation is readily available).
- *Instead of planning several short vacations by airplane, go on one long trip every few years.
- Do you have to go that conference? Try teleconferencing or attending more local and regional conferences instead of going to the national or international ones.
- When vacationing, choose a hotel with a commitment to the environment. See www.greenhotels.com.

Projects

- △ Research airlines and pick the one that has the best environmental and social record. Comparisons can be found at www.responsibleshopper.org.
- △ Plan a vacation by train! The time spent enjoying the scenery while traveling can be as enjoyable as your destination. See Amtrak's wide selection at www.amtrak.com or call (800) USA-RAIL for a free prospectus. Travelers may board Amtrak in Sturtevant, Milwaukee or Chicago.

Car, Bus, Train, or Plane?

Trains and buses are almost always more environmentally friendly than planes and cars. If you have to choose between plane and car, try not to use the plane for less than 600 miles. Landing and take-off are very heavy on fuel use. Short distance air travel results in very high emissions of CO₂ per passenger mile.

Train transport is more energy efficient and cleaner than aircraft. Train energy consumption is 40-70% lower and air pollution up to 85% lower. Over short distances (less than 250 miles) and with about 70% occupancy, bus and train travel are twice and three times more energy efficient than air transport. Over longer distances the difference is slightly less.

- △ Consider setting up a ride board at your workplace, congregation, or community organization. At holidays and vacation times, people can post notices for ridesharing on out-of-town trips.
- △ Take up hobbies and recreational activities that you can do close to home. Try cross-country skiing, ice skating, snowshoeing, ice fishing, and hiking in the winter. Try canoeing, kayaking, hiking, biking, freshwater scuba diving, and birdwatching in the spring, summer, and fall.
- △ If you must fly to your destination, consider making your trip "climate neutral" by making a donation to projects that reduce emissions, such as building renewable energy facilities or planting trees. Book your next ticket through the Better World Club's "TravelCool! Carbon-Offset Program" at www.betterworldclub.com/environment/carbon_offsets.htm. For more information about climate neutral certifications, see www.climateneutral.com.