

**Offer employee commuting options:**

* Provide company bicycles or bikeshare membership*:* A company bicycle that can be utilized for staff going on short trips not only reduces transportation emissions but provides an opportunity to get some exercise during the workday. Another idea is to get a [business membership with Grid Bike share](http://gridbikes.com/corporate-memberships/).
* Have a bike repair kit for employees who ride bicycles to use
* Provide secure bicycle storage for staff and customers
* Offer lockers and showers for staff who walk, jog or bicycle to work or contract with a nearby athletic club to use their facilities.
* Set aside car/vanpool/rideshare car parking spaces.
* Offer a shuttle service to and from bus, train and/or light rail stops.
* Encourage bicycling to work by offering rebates on bicycles or provide employees a stipend or subsidy for bicycle maintenance. Look to a local bike shop to support or partner with for trade.
* Provide staff with transit passes through [Valley Metro’s Internal Transit Fare Outlet](https://www.valleymetro.org/internal-transit-fare-outlet) program to promote public transportation
* Offer incentives like monthly gift card drawings or cash reimbursement for not driving to work.  Check out Clif Bar’s [5 Tips for Starting a Commute Incentive Program at Your Company](https://www.clifbar.com/article/5-tips-for-starting-a-commute-incentive-program-at-your-company) for ideas.
* Help employees rideshare using Valley Metro’s [Share the Ride campaign](https://www.sharetheride.com/Public/Home.aspx) which offers the opportunity for employees to carpool with commuters nearby. Rideshare can also be achieved internally by surveying the staff to find out who lives near each other & could potentially carpool.

**Encourage alternative transportation to work by offering rebates, stipends or subsidies**

* 1. [Valley Metro’s Platinum Pass Program](https://www.valleymetro.org/employee-platinum-pass) offers an account based solution for employers to promote public transportation
  2. [Parking Cash Out programs](https://www.bestworkplaces.org/pdf/ParkingCashout_07.pdf) give staff that drive to work a payment for “their” parking spot. Programs like these with cash incentives are generally the most effective.
  3. Participate in [Maricopa County’s Travel Reduction Plan](https://www.maricopa.gov/2388/Travel-Reduction-Program). This is required for companies with fifty or more employees, but helpful tips and programs can be utilized by smaller companies.
  4. Incentives like monthly gift card drawings or cash reimbursement for not driving can be effective. Check out Clif Bar’s [5 Tips for Starting a Commute Incentive Program at Your Company](https://www.clifbar.com/article/5-tips-for-starting-a-commute-incentive-program-at-your-company) for ideas.
* ***Sign up for High Pollution Advisory days and communicate with employees to reduce driving on these days*.** Maricopa County Air Quality Department’s [*Clean Air Make More*](http://cleanairmakemore.com/make-the-commitment/sign-up-for-email-text-alerts/) initiative sends out email notifications with high pollution advisories, health watches and clean air updates. Sign up for these alerts and on days when high pollution advisories are issued, evaluate if staff can telecommute or avoid driving in rush hour, if meetings can be done over the phone, if errands can be put off or if public transportation can be prioritized.
* ***Offer customer incentives for patrons who use alternative transportation*:** Consider offering a discount, loyalty points or a small item like a stickertovisitors who use alternative transportation to get to the Center.
* ***Participate in Bike to Work & Rideshare campaigns***: Participating in larger campaigns focused on biking to work or ridesharing are fun opportunities to get staff to test out alternative modes of transportation. April is [Valley Bike Month](https://www.valleymetro.org/valley-bike-month) and October is [Rideshare Month](https://www.valleymetro.org/rideshare-month). Both campaigns generally have contests and events that the Audubon team can participate in.
* ***Post bus stops, light rail stops or bikeshare hubs that are near your business on your website:*** Encourage the use of alternative means of transportation by adding transit information on the Location section of your website. Below is a screenshot of how we post this [on LFA website](https://www.localfirstaz.com/contact/).



**FLEETS**

* ***Institute smart driving education program***: The way you drive your car has an impact on your gas mileage, so focusing on driving at steady speeds, using cruise control and avoiding hard braking can make trips more fuel efficient. [Eartheasy](https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/fuel-efficient-driving/) has good tips on ways you and your team can drive with fuel efficiency in mind.
* ***Consider alternative fuel vehicles:*** When thinking about purchasing new company vehicles, moving away from petrol gas powered vehicles can significantly lower your carbon emissions. Electric and hybrid vehicles are the most abundant but there are other options including biodiesel and CNG that may be a good fit for your fleet. The U.S. Department of Energy has information about [alternative fuels on their website](https://afdc.energy.gov/), and the [Valley of the Sun Clean Cities Coalition](https://www.cleanairaz.net/) has good local resources.

**Maintain company vehicles:**A properly maintained vehicle can improve its efficiency, reduce emissions and save you money. Regular engine performance maintenance will help you burn less gas, pollute less, and prevent car trouble down the line. This will include checking the spark plugs, replacing the fuel and air filters, replacing ignition system and/or emission system parts if needed and ensuring the onboard computer control system is working properly.

***Develop a fleet greening plan:*** Emissions can be reduced significantly by planning to purchase a more fuel efficient vehicle when you are ready. Gasoline vehicles should be around 30 miles per gallon or less, but there are many options for alternative fuels. Resources to develop a plan can be found through the [Environmental Defense Fund](http://business.edf.org/files/2014/03/greening-fleets.pdf) and [Green Fleet Magazine](https://www.greenfleetmagazine.com/155842/how-to-create-a-sustainable-green-fleet-policy).

***Carefully plan delivery routes to eliminate unnecessary trips:*** When making deliveries or running errands for the business, make sure to use route optimization software. This not only lowers emissions, but saves staff time, fuel and mileage reimbursement costs.

***Calculate driving footprint for commercial fleet:*** Get a better understanding of the emissions associated with your fleet by calculating your fuel consumption, then comparing it to the following chart, which shows typical driving emissions based on fuel economy. [Find tips online here](http://shrinkthatfootprint.com/calculate-your-driving-emissions).

***Institute a “no idling” policy for company vehicles:*** Idling burns fuel unnecessarily while adding greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and contributing to the Valley’s air pollution. If you’re going to stop for more than 30 seconds, except in traffic, turn off the engine. A template for this policy can be found here: [enginesoff.com/pdfs/Sample-Idling-Policy.doc](http://enginesoff.com/pdfs/Sample-Idling-Policy.doc). In addition, [Eartheasy](https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/fuel-efficient-driving/) has good tips on ways your team can drive with fuel efficiency in mind.

**Work with local Travel Reduction programs to develop a plan for employee commute reduction:** [Maricopa County’s Travel Reduction Plan](https://www.maricopa.gov/2388/Travel-Reduction-Program) is required for companies with fifty or more employees. The program is part of Maricopa County’s efforts to combat the significant impact that commuters contribute to air pollution, and provides assistance to businesses to develop travel reduction plans including personalized assistance. Reach out to the program coordinators to learn how to get started.