

AT WORK TRAVEL ALTERNATIVES TOOL

OBJECTIVE:

Health Authority worksites are dispersed around the province. Some employees need to travel between different sites for work related duties or meetings. The purpose of this tool is to increase awareness of sustainable communication and transportation options available to employees to replace work-related single occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The provincial government has set a target to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 33% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050. Technology improvements alone will not get us there: We are all part of the solution.

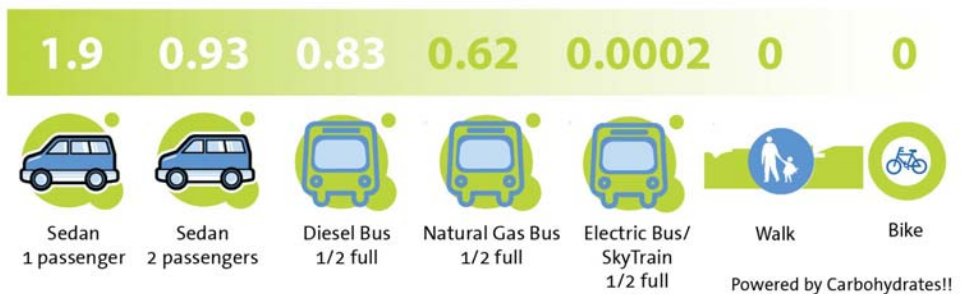
According to the “2005 Lower Fraser Valley Air Emissions Inventory & Forecast and Backcast”, on-road vehicles (along with heating) are a major source (more than 30%) of greenhouse gas emissions.¹

Within Metro Vancouver 76% of all trips are made by car, 11% by transit, 11% by walking and 2% by cycling.² It’s likely that transit, walking and cycling will need to achieve a 50% combined mode share by 2040 to help us meet our provincial GHG reduction target.

Choosing an alternative to single occupant vehicle (SOV) use just one day a week reduces SOV trips by 20%, creating a cleaner atmosphere and more cash in your pocket: The Canadian Automobile Association estimates that the average annual cost of owning and operating a car is \$10,000.

Average CO₂ Emissions By Kilogram per Person for a 10 Km Trip*

* less is better!



Many Health Authority sites have a severe parking shortage. Often-times patients can’t get adequate parking because staff are taking up so many spots. At a cost of approximately \$50,000 *per stall* underground, building new parking lots is not a sustainable option for BC’s cash-strapped healthcare system.

Lastly, people who use sustainable forms of transportation are often healthier and less likely to suffer from obesity, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension and other diseases. As a Green+Leader you can help by educating your coworkers on their sustainable transportation choices.

BENEFITS:

- Saving energy
- Saving healthcare money
- Time that would have been spent driving or travelling can be spent doing other things
- More parking space freed up for patients
- Reducing your carbon footprint and helping to improve air quality feels good.

BARRIERS:

- Awareness – some staff are not familiar with all of the alternatives available to them
- Need more information/training regarding the available options
- New technology may need to be installed or learned

¹ http://www.metrovancouver.org/about/publications/Publications/2005_LFV_Emissions.pdf

² http://www.translink.ca/~media/documents/bpotp/plans/transport_2040/transport%202040.ashx

- People often feel more comfortable meeting in person
- Fear that the technology won't work when you need it
- People feel it is inconvenient

STEPS:

Step 1

Either have your manager/director send out email 1 (below) to let people know about their **At Work Travel Alternatives** or send the email yourself. You can also bring up the points in the email at a staff meeting.

EMAIL 1

Subject: At Work Travel Alternatives

Do you have to travel between Health Authority sites or travel off-site during the workday? You have a number of options available other than driving.

Sustainable Transportation options that you may be using to commute to work (walk, bike, transit, etc.) can also be used for work-related travel. What's more, there are some additional options available:

Inter-hospital Shuttle: For employees at sites in Vancouver there is also the inter-hospital shuttle between major health facilities in Vancouver. For schedules and drop-off/pick-up locations visit

<http://pod/TRANSPORT/SHUTTLES/pages/Default.aspx> or

http://www.vcha.ca/programs_services/commuter_centre/inter-hospital_shuttle_bus/page_31962.htm

Audio-conferencing: You don't always need to meet face-to-face: Most phones and meeting rooms have audio-conferencing abilities where groups of people can call into one phone.

Video conferencing: For times when you must be face-to-face try video conferencing. It's an easy way to meet and collaborate with people off-site. Many agencies with video conferencing capabilities can be found in the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, the Interior and the North. Rooms must be booked in advance through the department or Agency that controls access to the room. The video conference must be booked separately. The TeleHealth office can provide location details and site contact information, and will assist in coordinating and booking your video conference. Contact TeleHealth at telehealth@phsa.ca or telehealth@vch.ca.

Thank you!

<Your Name>

<Position>

Step 2

Model the **At Work Travel Options** behaviour yourself and encourage your co-workers to do so too.

EVALUATION

See if you can encourage your colleagues to commit to having at minimum one meeting via audio-conference or video conference and to travel to at minimum two meetings (where they would normally drive) by shuttle, carpool, transit or bicycle during the campaign. Report the results back to Meredith Hunt mhunt2@phsa.ca