

Driving Less

Why we care

Cars are the largest contributors to global warming and the biggest oil consumers and air polluters in our lives. Currently the US imports over 60 percent of its oil—the highest rate ever. Our dependence on foreign oil fuels international conflicts, and drilling for and transporting oil has resulted in massive environmental disasters.

Simple, positive change

- Combine trips. Keep a list and wait until it is long enough before making a trip. Practice trip chaining and plot the best route ahead of time.
- Create a monthly budget. Estimate how many miles you drive each year and set a monthly allowance. Keep track of your mileage to try to reach your goal.
- Ride a bike. Biking is easier when you have the right gear and know the best route. Check out a Bicycle Transportation Alliance workshop: www.bta4bikes.org/resources/commute101.php. Get a bike map at <http://www.portlandonline.com/transportation/index.cfm?a=70221&c=34809>.
- Take the bus. Use the Tri Met Trip Planner online.
- Change one trip at a time. Choose one trip that you make regularly, then walk, bike, carpool, or use mass transit instead. When that becomes comfortable, select another regular trip.
- Park a car. Make a pact with your household to park a car for three months. After the experiment, evaluate which new practices you are willing to keep.
- Sell a car. You may lose some time and convenience, but you will save money and contribute to a healthy planet. Explore Zip Car (www.zipcar.com) or a car rental company like Enterprise when you need an extra car.

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