

*Way to Go, Seattle* tips for reducing car use:



- Do your “homework” before leaving the house. For example, use the Yellow Pages to locate merchants nearby. Compare prices and check that items are available before you get in your car. Plan trips in advance and consolidate errands.
- Patronize businesses within walking distance whenever possible. Some business can be handled over the phone, on-line, or through mail order.
- Many insurance companies offer reduced rates if you drive your car less often.
- What would you do with three more hours each week? If you organize a carpool for three other kids, that’s how much time you’ll save.
- Walk to the bookstore. Ride a bicycle to a movie or your workout. The great thing about self-propelled transportation is that it’s so healthy. You work your heart and muscles, and cut down on traffic congestion – all at the same time.
- Give carpooling a try. It’s fun and convenient. What’s more, leaving your car at home even once or twice a week will help reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. Ask if your church or organization saves some “prime” parking spots for carpoolers.
- Ride the bus. With just seven passengers, the average bus exceeds the fuel efficiency of an average commuter driving alone!
- Get a basket on your bike...or take a backpack when you ride the bus. That makes it even easier to get errands done.
- Return your library books and go to the post office on the way to the grocery store.
- Ride your bike to school or work whenever it isn’t raining.
- Pair up with a neighbor and take turns driving the kids to school
- Organize carpools for sports teams and ski groups.
- Walk your dog to the drugstore to have your prescription filled.
- Shop with a friend or family member rather than taking separate cars.
- Use bike trails, sidewalks and quiet streets to make family bike trips fun and hassle-free.

- For repetitive errands (library, dry cleaners, video store) set a few boxes near the door. Whenever a driving member of the household goes out, they can check the boxes and make the 'deliveries' close to where they're going.
- Use the bike racks on Metro buses so you can bus one-way and bike the other.
- Keep a calendar near the phone and cluster your appointments to reduce trips.
- Put up a family "trip board" where errands are listed. Once a week run the errands in an efficient route.
- Make sure the whole family knows how to use the transit system.
- Post a carpool map at your office to make ride sharing easier.
- Get a group together and carpool or take the bus to an arts or sport event.