

In The Air

The Clean Air Partner Newsletter



The 20/20 Mobility Solutions Initiative

In order to keep traffic moving and keep Central Texas a great place to live and work, Capital Metro, the City of Austin, the Austin Chamber of Commerce, Austin+SocialGood, The Thrival Company, and Movability Austin have teamed up to provide businesses the tools and training needed to build successful mobility programs that will reduce traffic problems and curb our traffic footprint 20% by 2020.

Mobility solutions such as transit benefits, telework, ride-share, cycling, flex-time, and more can make your business stronger, more successful, and

Capital Metro's Rideshare Program

Employees who live in or outside of Austin can take advantage of a more economical way to get to work. Capital Metro's RideShare program provides groups of five or more riders with a month-to-month commuter option. The program includes choice of vehicle, insurance, maintenance and 24-hour roadside assistance. Vehicles range from crossover SUVs to standard vans that seat seven to twelve passengers.

The RideShare program is administered by vRide, a national vanpool service provider, under contract to Capital Metro. Through the program,

a better place to work. Learn how with the 20/20 Mobility Solutions Initiative and by participating in Mobility Week – October 20 – 24th. Go to www.mobilitysolutions.org and take the pledge to access the benefits. Get recognized when your business participates in Mobility Week!

- Get the Toolkit: Businesses that pledge get access to the Mobility Toolkit, including resources needed to build successful mobility programs.
- Join the 20/20 Mobility Solutions Webinars: Your company will get access to free training and webinars

employees can join already existing rideshare groups or form their own. Groups commuting from outside Capital Metro's service area into Austin are eligible to receive a \$550 monthly subsidy to offset the costs associated with the program, while groups traveling exclusively within the service area are eligible to receive \$600. The individual cost per rider will vary depending on vehicle size and number of passengers. The more passengers per group, the lower the individual cost per rider.

Why ride? By participating in the RideShare program, you are helping to

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on how to implement mobility programs and strategies.

- **Help the environment:** Help reduce your employees' drive alone behavior, and reduce harmful air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions caused by traffic.
- **Save money:** Mobility programs help attract and retain employees, saving money on hiring and training. They also help save money on facilities and operating costs.

reduce the amount of cars on the road and improving air quality. With 120 different participating rideshare groups in the program, each contributes to alleviating at least four cars off the road every day.

Visit the Capital Metro [website](#) for more information on how to participate, or call Annie Arguello at 512-389-7591.





2013 Reporting Results

Congratulations Partners! In 2013 you reduced 92,856 pounds of ozone forming emissions (NOx and VOCs). That makes a total of nearly 2.6 million pounds in the last five years. Although this total number was down from last year, the emission reduction per employee was up 6.8%.

New CAP Financial Policies and Levels of Acknowledgement

During the CLEAN AIR Force Technical Advisory Committee meetings, there have been discussions on ways to improve the Clean Air Partners Program. One way we are doing this is to revise the Financial Policies. This will help attract some of the smaller companies and organizations wishing to join the program.

The policies have been revised to reflect that an in-kind donation of services or materials can be made in

lieu of the annual obligation by up to 50%, and up to a limit of \$250. Partners may apply for this offset by submitting proposed in-kind services and/or materials to the CLEAN AIR Force Director for consideration and approval.

We have also established new levels of acknowledgement for the Clean Air Partners. There will be Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze recognitions. Platinum will be for those Partners that have

reached their 10% reduction and continue to strive for even greater reductions. Gold will be for those Partners continuing to reduce and have reached 6% - 9% of their baseline. Silver will be for those that have reached 3% - 5% reductions, and Bronze will be for new Partners and those that have achieved up to 3% reductions.

If you know of a business that may be interested in joining the program, please contact the CLEAN AIR Force office.

TCEQ Self Audit Program

For over a decade, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Self-Audit Program has helped businesses of all sizes maintain compliance. Housed in the TCEQ Enforcement Division, the Self-Audit Program is based on the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act which provides incentives for persons to conduct voluntary audits at regulated facilities or operations of their compliance with environmental, health, and safety regulations and to implement prompt corrective action.

The Self-Audit Program can provide two primary incentives to businesses:

1. Limited evidentiary privilege for certain information gathered in a voluntary self-audit; and
2. Immunity from administrative and civil penalties for certain violations voluntarily disclosed as a result of such an audit. Neither the privilege nor the immunity applies if an audit was conducted in bad faith, or if the person fails to take timely, appropriate action to achieve compliance, among other conditions.

Additionally, participation through the Self-Audit Program could help to reduce the compliance history score of the business location being audited. For more information on this program refer to the TCEQ regulated guidance document [RG-173, A Guide to the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act](#) or contact the TCEQ Enforcement Division at 512-239-2545.



Ozone Season Update

We have only had one Ozone Action Day so far this year and have four weeks left in the Ozone Season

How to Determine the 3-Year Ozone Average for the 5-County Region

Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson:

Ozone Season Update 10/01/2014		5/16/2014	68
		8/12/2014	63
2012	2013	5/17/2014	63
76	70	5/4/2014	63
			69*
		3	

2014 Ozone Season design value is the 3-year average of the 4th highest reading at the prevailing monitor (Audubon).

Current 2012-2014 Design Value

**Number rounded DOWN to nearest 2 significant digits.*

Welcome Our Newest Clean Air Partner – Time Warner Cable

Please welcome our newest Clean Air Partner, Time Warner Cable. They will be working with the CLEAN AIR Force for the 2014-2015 High School Public Service Announcement Air Quality Contest.

All high school students, grades 9-12 are eligible to participate. One first prize winner and one runner-up will be chosen and win great prizes from Samsung.

List of Experts

Thank you to the Partners who volunteered to be our subject matter experts. If you would still like to add your name to the list or would like to find out more about a subject, please contact the CLEAN AIR Force office.



Conduct “Vampire” Energy Audits

Vampire power is the energy used by electronics when they are seemingly off. For example, when your printer is turned off, some models could use approximately 113 kilowatt hours per year. Help save your organization money by unplugging devices that are turned off. An

easy way to cut power to all appliances and electronics at one time is to use a surge protector or power strip, and when it comes time to replace an electronic device, look for energy efficient models.

2014 Greater Austin Business Awards

The Clean Air Partners Program received the Austin Chamber’s Greater Austin Business Award in the Environmental Responsibility and Sustainability category – Congratulations Partners!



TERP Funding

Financial incentives are available through the Texas Emission Reduction Plan to help reduce emissions from older polluting vehicles and equipment. Applications are being accepted through December 2nd, Visit their website for more information:

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp>

Upcoming Events:

October 31st – End of Ozone Season Celebration with Commute Solutions

November 6th – Networking and Recruiting Happy Hour at Abel’s on the Lake from 5:00 – 7:00 pm

December 1st – Deadline for EPA to issue a proposal for a new ozone standard

Spring 2015 – Clean Air Partners Golf Tournament

Stay tuned... more information to come

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