



# Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>

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**Climate Leaders**

# *EPA Public - Private Partnerships*





## Why Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>

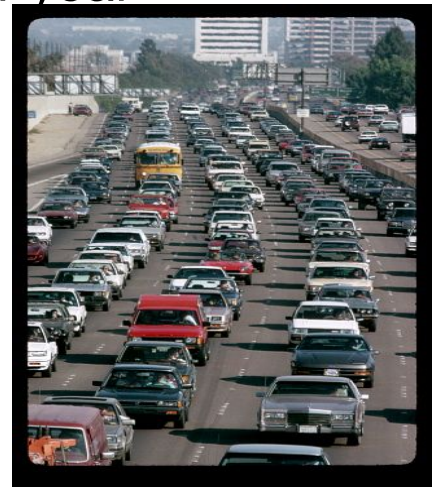
### ***According to the Texas Transportation Institute's 2001 Urban Mobility Report:***



- Average American spends 36 hours per year stuck motionless in traffic (only 11 in 1982)
- “Rush hour” now lasts 6 or 7 hours per day
- \$80B per year in lost productivity
- 4.5B hours of delay per year
- 7B gallons of wasted fuel per year

### **A major environmental challenge ...**

- Miles traveled increased 75% from 1980 to 1999 while fuel economy remained flat
- 80% were “drive alone” trips
- Light duty vehicles cause 20% of greenhouse gas emissions







## What is Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>

- Voluntary business-government partnership to ease traffic congestion, save fuel, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Aims to reduce single occupancy vehicle commuting by getting employers to offer employees the “National Standard of Excellence” for commuter benefits
- Program began recognizing partners in May 2001





## Criteria for National Standard of Excellence for Commuter Benefits

### ➤ Coordinate communication

- Designate point of contact
- Centralize information
- Communicate commuter benefits

### ➤ Offer commuter benefits package

- Emergency Ride Home
- One of four Primary Options
- Three or more Supporting Options

### ➤ Meet performance benchmark

### ➤ Report success to EPA



#### Primary options (choose 1)

- \$30 transit/vanpool subsidy
- Parking cash out
- 6% or greater telecommuting



## *Benefits to Companies*

- Recognition as a great place to work
- Employee recruiting and turnover savings. Important tool for retaining talent, which cuts costs associated with recruiting and training new employees.
- Parking-related cost savings. Alternatives to single-occupancy driving to work reduces employees' parking demand on their employers.
- Tax savings. Changes in the federal tax code allow employers to offer tax-free transit and vanpool benefits, saving employers money on payroll taxes.
- Facility cost savings. Telecommuting can reduce facility costs because fewer employees will be working at a particular site on a given day.



## Program Reach

- Over 600 employers covering over 1.2 million employees
- Eight Business Districts are located in Atlanta, San Francisco, and Colorado
  - Include an additional 4000 employers
- Best Workplaces for Commuters worksites in 31 States
- Climate Leaders that have BWC worksites
  - American Electric Power
  - BP
  - IBM
  - Lockheed Martin
  - Pfizer
  - Raytheon
  - Sun Microsystems





## *Tools and Resources*

- Business Benefits calculator
- Commuter benefits briefs
- Participant phone forums
- Commuter benefits training
- Simple on-line qualification check
- Account manager







## *Announcing...*

### Top 20 Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> from among the Fortune 500

- List to be released in September 2004
- Qualification based on % of work force with BWC-level benefits

[www.bwc.gov](http://www.bwc.gov)

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WORKPLACES  
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