**SUMMER OZONE SEASON BEGAN APRIL 1**

Ground-level ozone is the most widespread air quality problem in the United States, and thrives with sunny days and high temperatures. It is formed when sunlight causes a chemical reaction in volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx). It is harmful and should not be confused with the “good” ozone in the upper atmosphere.

Maricopa County Air Quality Departments suggests easy-to-follow tips for each day of the week so residents can do their part in reducing the Valley’s air pollution. For information visit ShareTheRide.com, your transportation solution.

**Ride Public Transit:**
Consider taking the light rail, bus or vanpool.

**Carpool:**
Riding together decreases the amount of dust and emissions in the air.

**Bike:**
Ride your bicycle to places within a mile. Get some exercise and save some gas.

**Walk:**
Walk to nearby locations instead of driving. Increasing your steps will improve your health.

**Avoid Idling:**
Avoid the drive-thru and go inside to order your food, coffee or prescriptions. Doing so will reduce exhaust emissions.

**Fuel After Dark:**
Hot temperatures and gasoline fumes create ground-level ozone. Reduce the effect and refuel your vehicle at night time.

**Sweep It Up:**
Sweep your driveway, patio, deck, etc. instead of using a leaf blower. You’ll burn calories, too!

**Sign up for email and text alerts.**
You’ll receive alerts for High Pollution Advisories (HPAs), Health Watches and clean air updates.

**Download the Clean Air Make More App** and receive real-time Phoenix air quality information and air pollution statistics on your smartphone or tablet, providing air quality forecasts, air quality restrictions and the ability to report a Phoenix air quality problem.

**CHANGE YOUR GAME PLAN CAMPAIGN OFFERS STORIES OF INSPIRATION**
Make a smarter move. Change your game plan and ride the bus or light rail, carpool, vanpool, telework, bike or walk instead of commuting alone.

Valley Metro shares stories from actual commuters about their journey to improve their commutes. [Check them out here.](#)

[Learn how to get involved.](#) Reduce stress and gain some “me” time. Do your part to reduce congestion and pollution, and win great prizes!

Special thanks to Change Your Game Plan participants!
TELEWORK AND COMPRESSED WORK SCHEDULES OFFER BENEFITS TO EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

Organizations in the travel reduction program (TRP) receive credit on the travel reduction plan when they choose the ordinance measures, compressed work week (CWW) and/or telework; and 10% or more of their staff participate. These measures remove vehicles from the road and reduce commute trips, reducing pollution and traffic congestion. There are also benefits to the employer and the participants.

Meet Stefanie Murphy, Human Resources Assistant and Transportation Coordinator for 15 years at McLane Sunwest in Goodyear, AZ. “We have a large group, approximately 80 employees, who work a 3/12 schedule. Working three days and having two days off allows them to spend time with family, attend doctor appointments and rest,” Stefanie explains.

The compressed work schedule is also a benefit to employers - reduced overhead on days when participants are away and less parking congestion. The flexibility lends itself to better recruitment and retention, and TRP participants receive credit from Maricopa County TRP staff when they include this schedule in their travel reduction plan.

When it comes to tracking compressed work week schedules and participants, Stefanie explains that they are treated just like employees who work a traditional 40 hour/week schedule. “Tracking employees’ shifts is not a problem for the payroll department. The only disadvantage is that there is less face-to-face communication with participants. However, the nature and location of their jobs – mostly drivers and fleet mechanics – is the cause more so than the work schedule”, Stefanie added.

Learn more about alternative work schedules and how they may benefit your organization and employees.

IN THE Spotlight

TELEWORK AND COMPRESSED WORK SCHEDULES OFFER BENEFITS TO EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

Gas pump toppers can be seen at Valleywide gas stations to remind commuters of ridesharing benefits.

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DUMP THE PUMP IS ON JUNE 21

National Dump the Pump Day is sponsored by American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and public transportation systems across the country. When you leave your car at home and take transit instead, you can expect public transportation benefits such as:
• Economic opportunities and community growth and revitalization
• Saved fuel and reduced congestion
• Reduced gasoline consumption

AAA reports the national gas price average continues to rise, landing the recent national average approaching $3.00 per gallon. Reduce commute costs by carpooling, vanpooling, taking transit, biking, walking and teleworking. Learn about commute options at ShareTheRide.com, your transportation solution.

Gas pump toppers can be seen at Valleywide gas stations to remind commuters of ridesharing benefits.
GET SOCIAL WITH US!
Valley Metro’s Commute Solutions team and its trip-matching system, ShareTheRide.com, have a Facebook page. Join us for transit updates, alternative mode tips, contests and inspiration. Visit Facebook.com/ShareTheRideandSave.

MATERIALS ORDER FORM
Transportation Coordinators (TCs) can help increase awareness and encourage employees and driving-age students to use alternative modes of transportation by placing brochures, maps and ride guides in high-traffic areas, such as a lunch room or lobby. Order your materials here. Consult your Commute Solutions coordinator for assistance.

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (TC) WEBINARS
TC webinars provide a great channel for Travel Reduction Program (TRP) updates. We encourage you to attend, ask questions and share the recorded version with employees. For a schedule of TC webinars, click here.

INTRO TO TRP COURSE ONLINE
Valley Metro offers a training class for new a TC anytime online. The class provides an overview of the (TRP) and keys to success. For details and to register, click here. Once completed, other courses may be taken.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TRP EMPLOYERS WHO REACHED 60% TARGET
Valley Metro and the Maricopa County (TRP) would like to congratulate and recognize the TRP employers who have recently met or exceeded their drive-alone rate and/or miles traveled goals at one or more work sites. Click here for a list of the TRP employers who achieved the 60% drive-alone target.

BUY YOUR TRANSIT PASS BEFORE YOU BOARD
Save time when you buy your pass before boarding the bus or light rail. There are more than 800 locations Valleywide where you can purchase your pass. For a complete list of retail locations, along with the types of passes available and store hours, visit valleymetro.org.

BUY YOUR TRANSIT PASS BEFORE YOU BOARD

Valleymetro.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO TRP EMPLOYERS WHO REACHED 60% TARGET

Valley Metro, Maricopa Association of Governments, Maricopa County Air Quality Department and Valley Metro.