



Clean Commute Chronicle

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Eco Driving Tips

Even if you don't ride the bus, carpool, or bike everyday, you can still be an "EcoDriver". EcoDrivers can apply simple driving practices and basic maintenance steps to save money and protect Mid-Michigan's environment.

Driving Practices:

1. **Avoid Rapid Starts and Stops:** According to the EPA, gentle acceleration and braking can save more than \$1 per gallon; improving fuel economy up to 33%.
2. **Maintain a Constant Speed:** Slow-and-go is always better than stop-and-go traffic.
3. **Ride the Green Wave:** Traffic lights are often supposed to be synchronized so that motorists driving at a specific speed may pass through a series of green lights without stopping.
4. **Use Air Conditioning at Higher Speeds:** When driving at speeds of 40 mph or less, open windows are better, but when driving at speeds over 40 mph, having open windows creates drag while using the air conditioner will use less fuel.
5. **Maintain Optimum Highway Speed:** Highway driving that exceeds 60 mph uses more fuel. Observing the speed limit and not grossly exceeding 60 mph (where legally allowed) can improve mileage by 7-23%.
6. **Avoid Engine Idling:** Idling = 0 miles/gallon. As a rule, shutting off your engine for any stop anticipated to be longer than 30-60 seconds saves gas and reduces harmful pollution emissions. In addition, today's automobiles do not need a warm-up period before driving. According to J.D. Power, even on the coldest morning, running your engine for 30 seconds is all you need before your vehicle is ready to drive (diesel engines may vary).

Maintenance Practices

1. **Schedule Periodic Engine Tune Ups:** Regularly scheduled tune-ups can improve gas mileage by an average of 4%.
2. **Replace Air Filters Regularly**
3. **Check Your Tire Pressure:** Check your tire pressure at least once a month. Properly inflated tires can translate into a free tank of gas per year and reduces emission levels.
4. **Tighten Your Gas Cap:** As much as 30 gallons of gas could be lost annually due to evaporation when fuel caps are not tightened properly.
5. **Remove Excess Weight from Your Vehicle:** Every pound of extra weight requires your vehicle to work harder to move it, and that effort uses fuel. Remove those extra golf clubs, bowling balls and other excessive items if not needed.



Winter Driving Alerts

The Winter Travel Advisory operates through the Michigan State Police Department from late November or early December through March 30th. It is updated twice a day or as information concerning travel conditions is received. If you need more current or specific information, please listen to your local radio or television stations. You may also visit the weather and travel related websites linked to these advisories or call the Michigan State Police Travel Hotline at 1-800-381-8477.

Conditions are listed for freeways and state trunk lines. These roadways are the first to be cleared during inclement winter weather. It is unusual for conditions on rural and county roads to be better than those listed in this advisory. While drivers are encouraged to use all available information when making winter travel plans, even the latest, most accurate information is not a substitute for good judgment. If weather conditions appear to be too severe to travel, they most likely are.

For more information visit their website at: <http://www.ohsp.state.mi.us/rw/home.htm>. Please remember to drive safely!

Contact Us

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Other Alternative Transportation Providers

MichiVan: 800-VAN-RIDE

EATRAN: 517-543-3040

Clinton Transit: 800-800-5938

TCBA: www.biketcba.org

Featured Commuter of the Month

With the snow and ice in Michigan often causing hazardous driving conditions, it is always nice to share the ride with someone else. This is especially true for this month's featured commuter. Marianne commutes in a carpool daily, from her home in the Brighton area, to MSU's Clinical Center.

Marianne has been clean commuting since August, with her one-way commute being 46 miles long. At the beginning, during good weather, her daily commute took forty minutes. However, during these snowy winter months, Marianne states that the commuting time mainly depends on how clear the highway on I-96 may be.

Marianne decided to try Clean Commute Options because she was "finally" in a location that made it possible to carpool with others. The conversations that she enjoys with her fellow carpoolers not only fill the time during their long commuting route, but actually makes the time feel like it is going by quicker, and she now loves her commuting situation!

"I enjoy the commute so much more now! I have been driving from Brighton to East Lansing for 6 years, and the last 5 months with clean commuting have been the easiest since I started the drive from Ann Arbor in 2003" reports Marianne.

Information Updates

CATA Clean Commute Options routinely update records every six months, or as requested, but we need your help! Please remember to update your information with the Clean Commute Options Coordinator if you have any changes in your home address, work destination, schedule, email, phone numbers, etc.

Thank you!

Carpools Looking for More Riders

- Ann Arbor-Lansing
- Ann Arbor-East Lansing/MSU
- Brighton-MSU
- Charlotte-Lansing
- Corunna/Bancroft-Lansing
- Durand/Corunna-Lansing
- Durand/Perry-MSU
- Jackson-Lansing
- Eaton Rapids-Lansing
- Eaton Rapids-East Lansing/MSU
- Novi-Lansing
- Owosso-East Lansing/MSU
- Owosso-Lansing
- Portland/Eagle-West Lansing
- Portland/Ionia/Eagle-MSU
- Saginaw/Flint-East Lansing/MSU
- Spring Arbor/Jackson-Lansing

Vanpools Looking for More Riders

- Brighton-Lansing
- Howell-Lansing
- Ionia/Saranac-Lansing
- Jackson-Lansing
- Lennon/Flint-Lansing
- Milford/Southfield
- Southfield-Lansing