



# Clean Commute Chronicle

May 2009

## In This Issue

<b>Ozone Season Returns</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Air Quality Index</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ERH FAQ's</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Featured Commuter For Nat'l Bike Month</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MSU Vanpools</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Open Carpools &amp; Vanpools</b>	<b>3</b>

## Ozone Season Returns with Possible Unhealthy Air

May is here along with longer days, warmer temperatures, and increased sunshine. May also marks the beginning of Peak Ozone Season when we can face an increased chance of poor air quality. Peak ozone season begins this month and lasts until the end of September, and the Greater Lansing Region may face the threat of increased concentrations of ground-level ozone on Ozone Action Days. Those most affected by the unhealthy air days include children, those with asthma or other lung and breathing problems, as well as those who are active outdoors all day.

To make sure you are aware of when we may face an Ozone Action Day, listen to local media weather broadcasts for announcements of Orange Alerts or higher - and take action! You may also look on the CATA website, read Clean Commute email announcements, or visit [www.deqmiar.org](http://www.deqmiar.org).

To help improve our air quality during these months, and all year long, try incorporating these simple steps to cleaner air into your regular activities! Simple Steps include:

- Choosing an alternative commute option including riding the bus, carpooling, vanpooling, biking, or walking.
- Wait to fuel your vehicle until after the workday so harmful emissions from fuel don't have all day to build into unhealthy concentrations.
- Don't top off your gas tank! Did you know that several drops of spilled fuel equal the same amount of emissions that are produced if you drove for 50 miles!
- Reduce vehicle engine idling. Idling = 0 miles/gallon and causes a lot of pollution.
- Do not mow your lawn on Ozone Action Days. When we aren't having an Ozone Action Day, you can still help by waiting to mow your lawn until the early evening when it is cooler.

**Thank you for all that you do everyday, because *it all adds up to cleaner air!***



Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern	Colors
<i>When the AQI is in this range:</i>	<i>...air quality conditions are:</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
0 to 50	Good	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk
51 to 100	Moderate	Air quality is acceptable, however there may be a very small number of people affected who are usually sensitive to air pollution.
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Members of sensitive groups (children, those with asthma or other lung problems, and active adults) may experience health effects.
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Everyone may begin to experience health effects. Members of sensitive groups may experience more serious effects.
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Health alert: Everyone may experience serious health effects.



## Emergency Ride Home Service FAQ's



**How Do I Sign up for ERH Service:** Everyone who wishes to participate in the Emergency Ride Home program must participate in a carpool or vanpool at least 3 days per week. To sign up or make sure you qualify, please fill out **both** a Clean Commute Options application and ERH application. Both of these must be turned in to complete the application process. Once approved, you will receive vouchers every 6 months. You may request applications via email at [cleancommute@cata.org](mailto:cleancommute@cata.org), or download them off the CATA website at [www.cata.org](http://www.cata.org), then click on the 'CATA services' button, selecting Clean Commute Options.

**What if I am already in a carpool or vanpool?** As long as you carpool or vanpool at least 3 days/week you can sign up, even if you have been ridesharing for years. However, you must complete both the Clean Commute and ERH applications.

**What qualifies as an Emergency?** Please view the emergency situations listed with the vouchers you receive. Personal or family-related emergency or illness, unplanned overtime, being stranded at work because your carpool/vanpool driver had to leave early, etc. all apply. Events such as scheduled doctor's appointments and pre-planned overtime do not qualify.

**How long can I use the ERH rental car?** Each voucher is good for a one-day rental only. Vouchers expire after 6 months. Please read all guidelines, terms, and conditions included with your vouchers!

**If I have an Emergency, how do I call for an ERH?** There is a 1-800 number printed on the inside of each voucher. Call this number and you will be connected with the nearest Enterprise location. You should only call the Clean Commute office or the other phone number printed in the brochure if you are experiencing problems.

**What if I need an ERH after normal business hours?** If you experience an emergency after 6:00 p.m. you may call the Lansing Airport Enterprise location at 517-703-8060 which remains open until 11:30pm on the weekdays. If you still experience problems after calling Enterprise, please call the 202-8840 number printed on the back of your vouchers. For questions that do not require immediate assistance, you may call the Clean Commute Options Office the following day during our normal business hours.

**Do I need to have my vouchers with me?** Yes. Please keep your vouchers at work, in your purse, or some other location where you will have them available at all times to turn in to Enterprise in case of an emergency. Please keep a copy of the completed voucher for your records before giving to an Enterprise representative.

For additional questions or concerns please contact the Clean Commute Options Program Coordinator at 393-7433 or email [cleancommute@cata.org](mailto:cleancommute@cata.org).

## Featured Commuter of the Month

May is National Bike month and this month's featured commuter has true dedication, commuting on his bike year-round! Roger has been commuting from Dansville to Lansing near Hosmer & Hazel St. Once arriving near Lansing's south side, he then parks his car and continues the rest of his commute into downtown on a 10 minute bicycle ride.

Roger travels this way an average of 4 days per week and has been doing so since 1997. By combining modes between driving and cycling for his commute, Roger saves over \$30.00 per month. However, he doesn't do it just for the cost savings.

"I enjoy it, it's a mini-workout twice a day", states Roger.

The years of experience Roger has gained from bicycle commuting in Michigan has gained him extensive knowledge of how to dress for all sorts of weather, especially the cold. He even continued to bike commute when the temperatures hit 20 below! However, some weather makes leaving his bike at home imperative. The severe rain or thunderstorms that we receive once or twice a month, make Roger opt for his automobile and he'll pay to park in a lot.

Roger would also like to share some comments for motorists that he may experience during his commute:

"If you see a biker on the road, don't be mad that he's slowing you down. Be grateful that there is one more parking spot available for you, that the air is a little cleaner, gas is a little cheaper, and we don't make much noise when going through your neighborhood. And bikes are a lot easier to pass than a slow automobile driver!"

# **S** MSU Vanpools

## Contact Us

**Clean Commute Options**  
4615 Tranter St.  
Lansing, MI 48910

**Phone:** (517) 393-7433  
**Fax:** (517) 394-3733  
**Email:** [cleancommute@cata.org](mailto:cleancommute@cata.org)  
**Web:** [www.cata.org](http://www.cata.org)

MichiVan Commuter Vanpools, the vanpool provider for Clean Commute Options, is offering an incredible opportunity for employees of Michigan State University. The first group of individuals to get four people together to form a vanpool, are eligible for a FREE month of vanpooling courtesy of MichiVan! This is a unique opportunity to start using MichiVan, since MichiVan usually requires a minimum of 5 individuals in a 7 passenger van, but they are waiving the extra rider for the Green and White! This is an excellent opportunity for Michigan State to "jump on board" as the University of Michigan did a few years ago, and MichiVan loves a good rivalry!

This LIMITED one time offer will give the group an opportunity to experience both the cost savings, and this unique environmentally-friendly service, with less than the required 5 rider minimum. MichiVan is certain that in one month's time, other people will want to contact you, making you eligible to continue the vanpooling experience.

The MichiVan fleet offers a diverse selection of vans ranging from 7 passenger minivans to 15 passenger full-size vans.

It only takes 6 simple steps to get started:

**STEP 1:** Call MichiVan and ask for Alexis @ 248-539-0627 to request an application and additional information to be sent to you. A MichiVan representative is available to meet with you and schedule an on-site group formation meeting.

**STEP 2:** Determine who will be the Primary and Alternate Drivers.

**STEP 3:** Determine the number of miles you travel to work one-way from your first meeting point to your final work destination.

**STEP 4:** Submit a completed application package for MichiVan and Clean Commute.

**STEP 5:** Set a delivery date with a MichiVan representative and you'll be on your way to vanpooling!

## 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
- Jackson-East Lansing
- Kalamazoo/Battle Creek-Lansing
- Lowell/Ada-Lansing
- Novi-Lansing
- Owosso-East Lansing/MSU
- Owosso-Lansing
- Portland/Eagle-West Lansing
- Portland/Ionia/Eagle-MSU
- Spring Arbor/Jackson-Lansing



## Vanpools Looking for More Riders

- Ann Arbor-Lansing
- Brighton-Lansing
- Canton-Lansing
- Grand Rapids-Lansing
- Highland/Novi/Brighton-Lansing
- Howell-Lansing
- Ionia/Saranac-Lansing
- Jackson-Lansing
- Lapeer-Flint
- Lennon/Flint-Lansing
- Milford/Southfield-Lansing
- Southfield-Lansing

Contact Clean Commute Options by calling (517) 393-7433 or email [cleancommute@cata.org](mailto:cleancommute@cata.org) for more information on how to join these carpools.

## Other Alternative Transportation Providers

**CATA:** 517-394-1000

**MichiVan:** 800-VAN-RIDE

**EATRAN:** 517-543-3040

**Clinton Transit:** 800-800-5938

**TCBA:** [www.biketcba.org](http://www.biketcba.org)