

Fact sheet # 13

Tips for more efficient personal travel by mixing it up

Minimize Unnecessary Vehicle Trips

Consolidate trips, so you run several errands at once. Before making a trip, consider if there is an alternative.

Is the trip necessary?

Is there a closer alternative?

Could it wait until you are making another trip to the area?

Is there another approach that reduces the need to travel?

Can you do this trip using another alternative to the car?

Add walking into the mix of responses

This can take the form of walking between shopping centres or parking at strip shops and walking the strip rather than moving the car.

It can also take the form of parking your car closer to the centre and walking the remaining distance.

Add cycling into the mix of responses

Find out about your closest public transport routes in your area. To get a copy of your local timetable and route map visit your local library.

Translink's journey planner is an invaluable help to planning your trip using public transport options in South East Qld.

<http://jp.translink.com.au>

For regional Qld there is also a journey planner available, qconnect.

<http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/travel-and-transport/qconnect.aspx>

In other states it is also likely that similar journey planners are available, particularly in major cities.

If not in walking distance this is an opportunity for you to get to the bus stop by walking or cycling rather than using your car.

Why not go for a ride using public transport option(s) when you have some free time to become familiar with them.

Make shopping convenient

Try to shop close to your home or work. If you travel by foot, bicycle

or transit, find stores that offer delivery service.

Check with your local Council to see if a seniors Council Cab scheme (ie. a weekly shoppers service to designated centre) operates in your area; they exist in most SE Qld.

Why not check out if shopping on-line with home delivery works for you?

Rideshare

When possible, organize your travel to Rideshare with other people. This can be done informally by simply asking neighbours if they need a lift.

It can also be formally done via checking with your employers if a car-pooling scheme operates in the workplace. If not, why not start one?

Telework

For some types of work it's possible to use a telephone and Internet communications as a substitute for physical travel.

Choose car-free holidays

Minimize car and air travel during your holidays. Travel by train, bus, bicycle or walking, and share trips with friends.



Fact sheet # 13

Choose destinations closer to home, and integrate vacations with business trips when possible.

Learn about what your car costs you

Owning a car is more expensive than most people realize, which means that reducing your car ownership and operating costs may provide more savings than you realize.

The RACQ is a great source of this knowledge:

http://www.racq.com.au/motoring/cars/car_economy/vehicle_running_costs_2013

Reduce car ownership

Reducing your household's car ownership (from 3 to 2, 2 to 1, or 1 to zero) will reduce your temptation to use an automobile when other travel options are available. Use alternative modes eg. Car sharing schemes or a taxi when an automobile is required.

Choose an Accessible Neighborhood

If possible, choose a home in a multi-modal community, where there are sidewalks and good cycling conditions, good public transport services, and nearby shops.

Even in automobile-dependent regions some neighborhoods tend to be more accessible, often in the

older parts of cities, or toward the center of towns.

Choose an Efficient and Clean Vehicle

When choosing a motor vehicle, choose the most energy efficient and low-polluting model that meets your needs.

If you occasionally need a larger vehicle, rent or carshare, rather than purchasing such a vehicle for full-time use.

Develop Efficient Driving Skills

More efficient driving habits can reduce vehicle energy use by 10-15%.

The Eco-Drive program by the Swiss Federal Energy Office recommends (SFEO, 2000):

- Drive in the highest possible gear and at the lowest possible number of revolutions.
- Accelerate briskly.
- Switch to a higher gear quickly (at a maximum of 2500 revolutions), wait before changing down.

- Drive steadily and defensively, avoid unnecessary braking and gear changes.

Have a Positive Attitude

Develop a positive attitude toward reducing car use and relying on alternative forms of transportation.

For example, think of time you spend walking and cycling as a fun and relaxing exercise, rather than wasted time.

Find ways to use time spent on public transport productively, by resting or reading. Challenge yourself to find ways to reduce your car use, and reward yourself with the financial savings.