

## Car Sharing

### Why we care

Cars are often the largest financial investment families make after their homes. Yet research has shown that the average car sits parked for 90% of its lifetime. Car sharing is one way to forgo car ownership. Members save money (potentially \$600 a month as reported by Zipcar) and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 35% per household. Members find they plan trips more efficiently and don't have to worry about car payments, insurance, maintenance, or repairs. Fewer cars on the road, less congestion, and less pollution mean society benefits as well. Note that car sharing is different from ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft, which actually [increase emissions](#) as the cars drive to pick up customers, displace bus riding and biking, and do not lessen car ownership.

### Simple, positive change

- Explore [Zipcar](#), a car sharing company. Members pay a fee, which provides insurance, and make an online reservation for one of almost 50 cars for as little as an hour to several days. Members access cars over a wide area of Portland and return them to the same spot. The rates (starting at \$10.50/hr or \$80/day) include 180 miles worth of gas.
- Consider the companies that serve as matchmakers for peer-to-peer car sharing.
  - [Getaround](#) provides insurance, screens driving records, and takes a cut of the hourly rate determined by the car owner. Members use Facebook to connect.
  - With [Turo](#), renters choose the car online, make reservations, and have the car delivered or pick it up from the host.

**Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at [jeanne@earthleaders.org](mailto:jeanne@earthleaders.org).**

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