

Driving Less

Why we care

Cars, SUVs, and pickups are among the largest contributors to global warming. They consume about half of our oil and in urban areas produce the most air pollution, a human health issue. Drilling, transporting, and refining oil often results in environmental disasters and international conflicts.

Simple, positive steps

- Combine trips. Keep a list of errands and wait until it is long enough before making a trip. Practice trip chaining and plot the best route ahead of time.
- Create monthly budget. Estimate how many miles you drive each year and set a monthly allowance. Track mileage to reach your goal.
- Ride bike. Biking is easier when you have the right gear, build your confidence, and know the best route. Check out [Portland By Cycle](#), Portland bicycle [maps](#) and Clackamas County [map](#). In Washington County see the [Bicycle Transportation Coalition](#).
- Take bus. Use the [Tri Met Trip Planner](#) online.
- Alter one trip at a time. Choose one trip that you make regularly; then walk, bike, carpool, or use mass transit instead. When that becomes routine, select another regular trip.
- Park car. Make a pact with your household to park a car for three months. After the experiment, evaluate which new practices you are willing to keep.
- Sell car. You may lose some time and convenience, but you will save money and contribute to a healthy planet. Explore a car-sharing company, such as [Zip Car](#). For road trips, consider a car rental company like Enterprise.

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@ecoschoolnetwork.org.