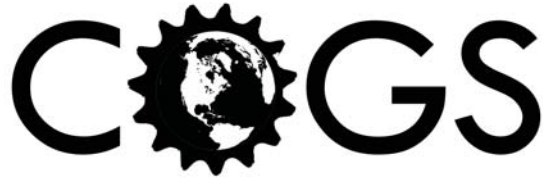


Campus Operations Sustainability Work Group



University of Oregon
Campus Operations, Growing Sustainability

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Message From F.S. Sustainability Work Group

Feedback, Please

The Sustainability Work Group needs your help. Keep us informed of your great work, ideas, and feedback as you read these newsletters. Please send ideas for stories and Superstar nominations.

Email comments to: knowaste@uoregon.edu



In This Issue ...

1. Sustainability Tips
2. Sustainability Facts
3. Sustainability Superstar
4. Point2Point Solutions
5. Carpooling
6. UO Transportation Guide
7. Electric Vehicle charging stations on campus
8. What is so “green” about electric vehicles?
9. Sustainability in the Mobile Shop
10. What are biofuels?
11. Upcycle with Bicycles

Sustainability Facts

- Public transportation reduces congestion saving the country over 800 million hours of travel time and over 450 million gallons of fuel
- Public transportation saves \$17 billion in congestion related costs
- For every \$1 invested by communities in public transportation there is a \$4 economic return

Source: American Public Transportation Association

Sustainability Tips

To get the most mpg from your vehicle:

- Reduce speed below 55mph. For every increase in mph there is a decrease in mpg.
- Don't haul around unnecessary excess weight
- Keep tires fully inflated
- Take the bus. It is free with UO ID!

Alternative Commuting Options Made Easy With



Point2Point Solutions is a Lane Transit District (LTD) program that makes it easier for employees to utilize sustainable commuting options. As employees of the University of Oregon, all of Campus Operations can already ride the bus for free with their UO ID. Check out the Point2Point Solutions webpage to find more easy ways to sustainably commute: <http://www.point2pointsolutions.org/>. Some of the very helpful resources you will find on the website include a list of park and ride locations; carpool networking service; bike route maps; and emergency ride home service registration.

Afraid to leave your car at home in case of an emergency might arise?
Point2Point has a solution for that too!

Campus Operations is one of the participating employers of the emergency ride service. This service will provide a free taxi ride home in case of an emergency if you traveled to work via bike, walking, bus or car-pool. Qualifying emergencies include: personal and family health emergencies, home emergencies (ie fire), unscheduled overtime, and being stranded due to an emergency that your carpool driver may have had. This service can be used up to four times a year, but you must register beforehand. To register and find out more information visit the website.



Carpooling

Carpooling to work is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint and save money. Carpooling not only saves on the cost of gas but also on parking. A UO staff parking pass for one year costs \$384, a carpool pass is only \$200 a year for the entire carpool!

Here are some carpool matching sites:

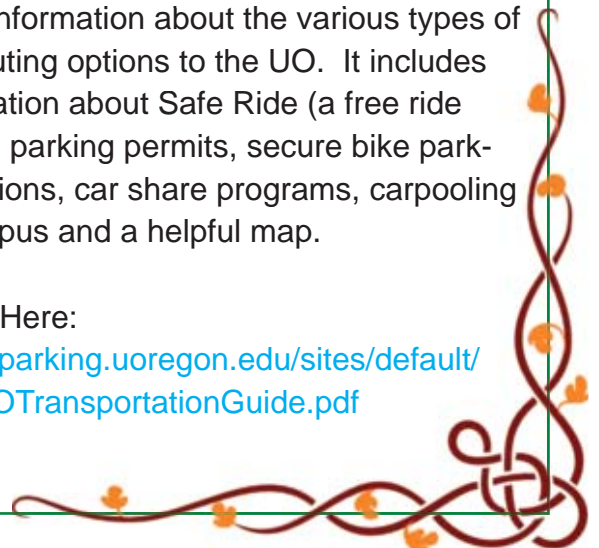
- Alternate Rides http://alternetrides.com/Home_Rides.asp
- LTD's Drive Less Connect <http://www.driveless-connect.com/>
- Zim Ride <http://zimride.uoregon.edu/>

UO Transportation Guide

The new parking guide is a great resource full of information about the various types of commuting options to the UO. It includes information about Safe Ride (a free ride home), parking permits, secure bike parking options, car share programs, carpooling to campus and a helpful map.

Find It Here:

<https://parking.uoregon.edu/sites/default/files/UOTransportationGuide.pdf>



Commuting Via Electric Vehicle: An Easy Option On Campus

Electric vehicles (EV's) have a reputation for having a large upfront price tag and so are not always considered when purchasing a new car. Additionally new buyers must consider the logistics of charging their vehicles when on trips, as this can be difficult if there is not existing infrastructure in an area.

The University of Oregon is eliminating some of the barriers to owning an EV that new car buyers face. With the 5+ existing charging stations on campus. The UO is helping to build the infrastructure that is needed for EV to become a viable option. These stations help to make EV's an affordable option because they offer free fuel and a place to charge up. There is no cost to charge a vehicle, all that is needed is a UO parking pass.

The charging stations are maintained and operated by UO's Department of Parking and Transportation. Currently there are 5 stations in operation located among lots 55, 56 and 12B. There is an additional station that is not currently online. The Department of Parking and Transportation is looking to add additional charging stations on campus in the coming year.

EV travel isn't simply limited to intra-city travel, long distance travel throughout the North West is also becoming a reality too. The West Coast Electric Highway is a network of fast charging electric vehicle stations along the I-5 corridor and its intersecting highways. EV ownership and use is now becoming a functional possibility.



Vehicle charging in lot 55 on the East side of Global Scholars Hall

What is so “green” about electric vehicles?

Electric vehicles (EV's) are often touted as being “zero emission” vehicles but it is not quite so simple. It is more accurate to describe electric vehicles as having zero emissions of smog, CO2 and other pollutants from the tailpipe, because there are still likely emissions that occurred in the production of the electricity (ie: coal fired power plant).

This being said, EV's do have environmental benefits over petroleum fueled cars. EV's are more energy efficient, transferring 75% of the batteries energy to propelling the car, whereas the internal combustion engine only obtains 20% of the energy to propel the car forward with 80% of it being lost as waste heat.

Another significant difference is that although the electricity could come from a coal fired power plant it could also come from a wind farm or a solar array. The potential to actually have a zero emissions vehicle is there, it is just not guaranteed.

Source: WWF Canada http://www.wwf.ca/conservation/global_warming/going_electric/



UO Bike Program

The UO Bike Program is a subsidiary of the UO Outdoor Program (OP). The Bike Program is a great resource that empowers the campus community to utilize bikes as transportation. You can rent bikes from the program for a day or a whole term. Term rentals cost only \$30. This fee includes a bike with fenders and a basket, a helmet, a lock and lights. The OP Barn also includes a bike shop where you can work on your bike with all the needed tools and the help from the expert staff. The Bike Program also offers a series of bike maintenance and repairs classes. To utilize these resources you must be a member however membership is free to students and only \$12 a year for staff. <http://outdoorprogram.uoregon.edu/bikes>

Sustainability Superstars Congratulations Mobile Shop!



Thank you for promoting sustainability in the campus community!

Campus Operation's own Mobile Shop is a great example of sustainability in practice. The mobile shop crew is responsible for the upkeep of all the vehicles on campus. Sustainability is much more than simply being "green." It is about considering the future to make smart choices that balance the environment, human health and economics. The Mobile Shop successfully does this while keeping the fleet moving.

As an outdoorsman, the Mobile Shop's Mike Hamill, has a deep commitment to protect the environment. In fact, Mike started out working for Campus Operations by collecting recycling on campus before the Campus Zero Waste program was started. Mike explained that when making purchases for the mobile shop he prefers to buy "green." Preferring to make durable purchases with replaceable parts so things can be repaired rather than thrown out. The mobile shop also strives to purchase chemical products that are safe for the environment and the workers that will be handling them, even if they are more expensive. One strategy that he employs to find safe products is to shop for products that are approved by the state of California, as California's regulations are more stringent than those of the Environmental Protection Agency.



The Mobile Shop strives to handle its waste and hazardous material as responsibly as possible. All of the cooling products go to Environmental Health and Safety for safe processing. Tires are returned to the vendor where they are refurbished for reuse when possible. Batteries from the vehicles are returned to the vendors for recycling. Oil and oil filters are recycled by the company Thermo Fluids. The Mobile Shop coordinates with EHS and the power plant so that all the oil from campus can be picked up in one trip.

Alternative Fuels For The Campus Ops Fleet

Greening of the the campus fleet has been a consistent trend throughout the years. Now the campus fleet is a mix of biodiesel powered vehicles and electric. For ten years now the campus has been using a biodiesel fuel. It started with a content of 5% biodiesel and is now up to 20%.

There are 17 electric vehicles in the fleet now. Electric vehicles have zero emission of greenhouse gas and other pollutants from the tailpipe. Electric vehicles are considered first when purchasing new vehicles. However, electric vehicles do have drawbacks and so are not always purchased. Electric vehicles have higher up front costs, higher maintenance costs, and they do not fit every job.



What Are Biofuels?

Biodiesel and ethanol are common types of biofuels. Biofuels are made from plant material. Corn, soy, sugar cane and used cooking grease are often used to make biofuels. Biofuels are seen as advantageous because the sources are readily available in comparison to the limited supply of petroleum. Plant based fuels have much lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with them because the gas released during the burning of biofuels was sequestered from the atmosphere during the growing process, so the release is part of the natural carbon cycle. Biofuels have become somewhat controversial due to the environmental and social impacts of the agricultural process. Forests and agricultural land are sometimes cleared to make space to grow biofuel feedstock which significantly increases the GHG footprint of the fuel. Fuels made from waste products, like used cooking oil, or high yield low impact feedstock, like algae, can make biofuels a real sustainable choice.

Biofuel factoid: Henry Ford's Model T was designed to run on biofuel so that farmers could produce their own fuel.

Campus Ops' Electric Fleet





Bike Wheel Pot Rack



Rain Proof Bucket Panniers.
Directions to make your own:
<http://tinyurl.com/bucketpanniers>



Upcycle with Bicycles!

Cardboard Bike

Made from upcycled material.
Check out this video to learn more:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txSboSNQINs>



Bike Tube
Earrings

Interested in more upcycling ideas?
Follow UO Zero Waste on Pinterest.
<http://pinterest.com/UOZeroWaste/>