

“A Conversation with Greenable Woodbridge” ABC – Anything But Cars: Promoting walking and bicycling

Introduction:

Do you want to “Go Green”? Do you know how to “Go Green”? Today we live in an environment that is threatened by global warming every second of our day; many of us want to learn how to live healthier "Greener" and more sustainable lives. So, the question is how does Anything But Cars (ABC), walking and bicycling create a “Greenable” environment? These are just a few ways in which we can do our part in helping our environment!

In recent years, terms like "Going Green" and "Eco-Friendly" have become the household talk at the dinner table. The term "eco-friendly" has been used for so many different products and practices; its meaning is almost in danger of being lost in translation. By definition and evaluation the actual meaning of “Eco-Friendly” can be implemented in the rituals and practices of our daily lives that will lead to healthier living for us.

Greenable Woodbridge has adopted a format for communication with Township residents called “The 12 Pillars of Sustainability.” Our August Pillar is Anything But Cars (ABC). Each week in August we will present options for Eco-Friendly transportation. Our recommendations will address the following:

- Week One: What is Anything But Cars?

What other transportation options are there for me in?

- Week Two: Will traveling via public transportation help my environment?
- Week Three: Are Green Cars the answer?
- Week Four: Bounce Back Your Fitness In 21 Days: Benefits of Walking & Bicycling

Week Two: Will traveling via public transportation help my environment?

Is traveling without a car possible in Woodbridge Township? Absolutely! It happens to be a safer choice, the best choice for the environment and in the long

run it will save energy. On the surface driving may appear necessary, but car-free travel reduces your “Carbon Footprint”. Your “Carbon Footprint” is the total amount of “Greenhouse Gases” produced directly and or indirectly by your activities for about a year, usually expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (CO²). In other words; as you drive a car, the engine burns fuel which creates a certain amount of carbon dioxide (CO²), depending on your car’s fuel consumption and the driving distance.

Overall transportation is accountable for approximately 28% of “Greenhouse Gas” emissions in the United States. Passenger cars produce approximately 34%, trucks, sports utility vehicles and minivans are accountable for 28% and public transportation, such as trains, buses, aircrafts, boats and ships are only accountable for approximately 7% or less of “Greenhouse Gases.” Public transportation actually saves 37 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO²) annually — equivalent to the emissions resulting from the electricity generated for the use of 4.9 million households or every household in Washington DC; New York City; Atlanta; Denver; and Los Angeles combined. So, those who choose to ride public transportation reduce their “Carbon Footprint” and conserve energy.

If an individual switches from driving a 20-mile round-trip commute to using public transportation, his or her annual (CO²) emissions will decrease by 4,800 pounds per year, equal to a 10% reduction in a two-car household’s “Carbon Footprint”. Public transportation ridership has increased 30% since 1995, with more than 10 billion trips taken annually. This increase has saved the U.S. the equivalent of 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline annually—more than 11 million gallons of gasoline per day. All the Woodbridge Township residents who use alternative forms of transportation have stake in preserving the environment.

According to the Department of Transportation, oil is not a renewable resource and is rapidly becoming scarce. It has become apparent that we may be running out of oil sooner than we thought and may even see a catastrophic shortage of oil in our lifetime. Petroleum use in private vehicles and growth in vehicle miles traveled are among the main drivers of the growth in energy usage in the United States. With the growth in energy use by emerging economies, the demand for scarce resources is increasingly outstripping supply. Public transportation encourages energy conservation, as the average number of passengers on a transit vehicle (10 for bus, 25+ for a train) far exceeds that of a private automobile (1.6). Even as a single transit vehicle consumes more energy than a private vehicle, the average

amount of energy utilized per passenger is far less. By moving more people with fewer vehicles, public transportation has an inherent advantage in energy conservation and efficiency. Transit also decreases the need for constructing and maintaining more transportation infrastructure (roads, parking lots, etc.), manufacturing new vehicles, disposing of old vehicles and extracting more fossil fuels, meaning further energy savings.

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YouTube Videos:

*Watch YouTube videos without comments, ads, or other distractions.

(<http://www.viewpure.com/>)

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2. Simpleshow Explains the Carbon Footprint https://youtu.be/8q7_aV8eLUE
3. Transporting America: United Streetcar https://youtu.be/6SFbl_I6nFs
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