

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

This packet will help you host a party that either includes an on-the-spot climate action or serves as the starting place to plan a larger-scale or longer-term project!



Thank you for hosting a Climate Action Now party!

Meeting our community-wide climate change goals will mean reducing our driving by approximately **1000 miles per car per year** over the next few years. Sound like a lot? Eliminating just one 20 mile car trip per week would get us there. How can we achieve this community-wide? Your CAN party will help chart the course! Incorporate an on-the-spot climate action into your party or use the party as a time to plan out a longer-term effort with friends and neighbors. Either way, Seattle Climate Action Now wants to help out behind the scenes. You'll find:

- ❖ **Party Ideas** A handful of ideas on how to turn a party into a Climate Action Now event.
- ❖ **Street Space** Info on how to close your residential street for a block party with a FREE permit!
- ❖ **Funding & Resources** Details on funding, incentives, and other resources available to you, including a list of neighborhood groups you many want join forces with

Climate Action Now Party & Project Ideas

Hosting a car-free party is fun, builds community and offers immediate bang for your climate protection buck! We've come up with a few simple ideas to help you get started. Of course, you can come up with your own party ideas, or use the party to plan a future project.



Speed Dating for Climate Protection... Don't Go It Alone!

Do you drop a child off at school or child care every day? Drive to soccer practice or dance class twice a week? Commute downtown or to the east side? Don't go it alone! Find out if a neighbor is heading your way by hosting a "Speed Dating for Climate Protection" party. Like its romantic cousin, the goal of Speed Dating for Climate Protection is to find a match made in heaven... A *carpooling* match that will reduce stress, increase time with family, help save you gas money, and cut down on climate pollution!

HOW TO:

1. Once all your party goers have arrived and had a chance to mingle and munch, invite everyone at your party to complete a drive-alone "match" card. This can be a simple index card that lists the day-of-the-week, time of day, start location and end location of current drive-alone trips.

2. Then start the clock... give folks 10 minutes to talk with each other about their habitual drive-alone trips and find someone whose trips match up with their own.
3. When a carpooling match is found, ring a bell (just for fun!) and help solidify the deal by calculating the climate impact of the match. Eliminating one twenty mile trip in an average car will save approximately 20 pounds of carbon. So one less trip like that every week will save just over 1000 pounds of carbon a year.
4. Give party favors to all matches if possible.



Free Drive Alone Therapy Sessions

Maybe what we need to get out of cars is some supportive, “professional” help and a massage....

HOW TO:

1. It’s a regular party. You know... food, music, games for kids... And off in the corner is an appealing couch and a “Certified Drive-Alone Therapist” (CDAT - that’s you!) inviting guests to sit down for a few minutes. Perhaps there is also a (real) massage therapist sweetening the deal with 5 minute shoulder rubs?
2. As the CDAT, invite your guests to open up to you about their drive-alone struggles. What causes the most tension? What inflicts the most suffering on their conscience? What are the biggest obstacles to breaking free? Which trips offer the most promise for relief? (You get the idea...)
3. Strategize with your patients about how to alleviate their drive-alone pain and suffering. (See the “Reduce” cheat sheet for ideas). Support and encourage your patients by offering perks for trying a new way to go, referring them to the incentives described below.
4. Finally, agree to a treatment plan with your patient and issue your recommended “prescription”. It might be something like, “Investigate a neighborhood carpool option for the daily school trip and commit to walking to church for the next four weeks. Then come back and see me again!” Most of all, keep it light and have fun!



Car-free Amazing Race

Invite your friends and neighbors to participate in your very own (climate-friendly) Amazing Race!

HOW TO:

Like in a standard scavenger hunt, teams of 2-4 people follow clues and perform tasks in a “race” to reach an undisclosed final destination and receive a prize. The clues in each leg of the race point the teams to the next destination and/or direct them to perform a task... each task is related in some way to reducing climate pollution.

There are many potential ways to design a race... You may choose to reward teams who arrive first at each “pit stop” with an encouraging climate-friendly prize (from your party favors). You may wish to penalize teams arriving last at each “pit stop” with a “climate protection citation” (see the list of ideas below). You may choose to involve area businesses or organizations and incorporate “snack stops”

throughout the race. You may want to plan a picnic lunch at the end of race course as a fun way to reconvene, debrief the race, and shower the winners (and all participants) with climate-friendly kudos. Use your own creativity and knowledge to incorporate unique aspects of your community!

Here are some generic ideas for potential clues/tasks, prizes and “citations”:

Sample Clues for Reaching “Pit Stop” Destinations
Walk to the closest Dewey Decimal system and seek further instruction in the 800’s
What is black, white, and read all over? (Hint: there are newspaper stands at most bus stops!)
What is the fastest car-free route to a watermelon from here? Prove it! (Hint: Lucky number = 5)
Sample Tasks to Complete at Each “Pit Stop”
Pump up a flat bike tire and check the pressure with a tire pressure gauge to receive next clue
Complete individual carbon footprints and action plans at www.seatttecan.org . Print and turn in action plans to pit stop captain! Note: All public libraries have free computer/internet access
Plot the best bike route from X to Y using the Seattle Bike Map (http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/bikemapform.htm)
Figure out the quickest way to get from the Seattle Aquarium to the Wing Luke museum without a car
Document how many places you can buy a carton of milk on the number 42 bus route between X & Y
Locate the nearest Zipcar location to where you are standing right now
Sample Prizes
Chinook book coupons
Reusable bags or energy efficient light bulbs
Tire pressure gauges? Bike tire patch kits? Homemade cookies or tamales?!
Sample “Citations”
Each (adult) team member must document one regular drive-alone trip he/she will eliminate for a month
The team must write down all its regular drive alone trips and identify potential carpooling options
Leave your car at home one day a week for the next month



Stop Idling in Your Community ~ Cool Tools

Do you live near one of Seattle’s draw bridges or ferry terminals? Or near a school where parents drive and wait for their children while their engines are running? Ever think about all the air pollution and wasted gas from a year’s worth of unnecessary idling? Why not use your gathering to plan an anti-idling action or project?

Here are some ideas that have worked:

- Perhaps you’d like to do something playful at a drawbridge on a sunny Saturday afternoon? Dress up in costumes and bike around with signs on your backs that say, “Honk if you’re NOT idling!” Unicycles, perhaps? Clown noses?
- Or maybe you’d prefer to plan an anti-idling project for the fall, when school starts up again, and invite the school’s administration and teachers to support your efforts. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency has a wealth of resources (including a standardized sign design and sample anti-idling policies) here: www.pscleanair.org/actions/vehicles/noidle.aspx If you want to plan a school project, here’s a toolkit! www.airwatchnorthwest.org/anti-idling.htm For paper copies, please call 206-684-8090.
- Start a Walking School Bus! A walking school bus is when a group of children walk to/from school with one or more adults. This is a great way to encourage physical activity and reduce unnecessary car trips & pollution caused by idling. It can be as easy as two families taking turns walking their children to school. Find many helpful hints about the benefits of walking to school and how to set up a Walking School Bus at www.coolmom.org. For paper copies, please call 206-684-8090.



Kickball for Climate Protection

Host a family-friendly tournament with a twist!

HOW TO:

Sign up friends and neighbors for a friendly game of climate protection kickball. (If kickball is not your thing, substitute your favorite team pastime. Soccer? Poker? Step dancing? Croquet?)

The winning team not only gets bragging rights and any combination of give-aways you may choose to offer as a prize, but also gets to issue a trip reduction challenge of its choosing to the runner up team. (See all our Way to Go incentive programs for ideas!) All members of the “losing” team must cut one 20 mile trip a week for a month? A year? The members of the “losing” team must establish at least one new carpool among themselves? The “losing” team must pump up the bike tires and shine the walking shoes of all the “winning” team members?

Teams can decide on and agree to the wager in advance of the game. No matter who takes home the trophy, the real winner will be our global climate.

And remember... We can help you close your residential street for a block, if that would make your party more fun! http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/stuse_blockparty.htm

Funding, Resources & Incentives

For Car-Free Summer Events & Projects



Way To Go ~ Challenges & Incentives

Cut A Couple Car Trips a Week ~ Participate and you will be entered in monthly drawings to win prizes like bus passes/tickets or walking/biking gear.

One Less Car Challenge ~ Ready to give your car an extended vacation? Park your car for a whole month and receive vouchers for alternative ways to get around town. Sell that car and the incentives just get better!

Commuter Cash ~ If you currently drive alone to work, you could earn up to \$150 by trying another commuting option. An average drive-alone Seattle commuter who switches to transit saves 5000 pounds of carbon and hundreds of dollars in one year. And that's before the \$150 bonus!

Thank You Drawing ~ Already bike, bus, or walk to get around? Thank you! You are eligible to enter our “Way to go!” thank you drawing for a chance to win a new iPhone.

Destination Discounts ~ If you bus, bike or walk to popular destinations like the Woodland Park Zoo and the Seattle Art Museum, receive discounts all summer long.

For details, visit www.seattlecan.org or call (206) 684-8090



Create Livable Neighborhoods ~ Funding & Participation

Small Sparks Become a community “spark”! Any individual with an idea for “sparking” involvement in his/her neighborhood is eligible for a Small Sparks award of up to \$250.00. The process is quick and applications are accepted at any time. Please visit www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/smallsparksapp.pdf for more information or call Allynn Ruth at 206-684-0301.

Neighborhood Climate Protection Fund Matching funds of up to \$15,000 are also available for larger community level climate protection projects. Applicant groups must have an open membership and must actively seek involvement from area residents and/or businesses. For project ideas, eligibility requirements, and application details, please call (206) 684-4520 or visit www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/climate.htm

Pedestrian Master Plan In your opinion, what makes a great place to walk? What would encourage you to walk more? What are the obstacles? Help make Seattle the most walkable city in the nation by weighing in on the Pedestrian Master Plan online at www.seattle.gov/mostwalkablecity.htm or by calling 206-684-8090.

Seattle Climate Partnership is a growing coalition of Seattle employers who are committed to assessing and reducing their climate pollution. If you would like to learn more or explore the possibility of involving your business in the Partnership, please call (206) 386-9748 or visit: www.seattle.gov/climate/partnership.htm

Neighborhood Planning is the lifeblood of livable, climate-friendly cities! It impacts zoning, transit, bike and pedestrian amenities, parks and other infrastructure that contributes to our high quality of life and low-carbon footprint. Participating in the upcoming Neighborhood Plan Update will help ensure that Seattle remains climate-friendly, prosperous, and responsive to community needs as we continue to grow. Please contact Ed Pottharst at (206) 733-9587 or visit www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Neighborhood_Planning/Overview/ to get involved.

SCALLOPS stands for “Sustainable Communities All Over Puget Sound”. Refer to the attached contact list to get in touch with the neighborhood group nearest you!



How'd It Go? ~ Party Summary

Your Name:

Party Location:

Date of Party:

Is it okay for us to share your summary with others interested in climate protection gatherings? Yes ___ No ___

Please type your summary if possible and limit it to two pages.

Brief description of your party

Did you use any of the suggested party ideas? If so, which one? If not, what did you do?

What worked well? What would you change?

Were you missing any necessary information or specific resource?

What is your best estimate of the number of person-hours involved in planning the party from beginning to end? What would have made party planning easier or more streamlined?

What advice would you give to someone interested in planning a party like yours?

Feel free to add any additional information you want to share about your party.

Photos and Documents

A picture speaks a thousand words! Please upload your top 10 favorite party photos to this Picasa site:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/seattle.climateaction>

Username: seattle.climateaction@gmail.com

Password: bethebucket

Please send any creative documents you developed for your party that you think others appreciate to:

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Climate Action Now
PO Box 94729, Seattle, WA 98124
seattlecan@seattle.gov
206-684-8269 fax
206-684-8090 phone

Did you develop an Amazing Race course/route and clever list of clues perhaps? A drive-alone therapist's prescription pad? A speed dating matchmaker's tally sheet? If you think your creation might be useful to someone else, you're probably right! We will be highlighting and sharing these resources at www.seattlecan.org.