

Way to Go, Seattle!

'One-Less-Car' Demonstration Study



APPENDIX A: Worksheets and Forms October, 2003

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CITY OF SEATTLE

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 WAY TO GO, SEATTLE!

Car Ownership Cost Worksheet

This is to help you determine costs of the car you own. AAA estimates it costs over \$6,000 per year to own and operate a car, or \$115 a week. Please use your actual vehicle costs to the best of your ability to determine them.

HOUSEHOLD NAME _____

Example: SMITH

Year: _____

2000 (Source: AAA)

Make: _____

Dodge

Model: _____

Caravan (minivan)

Average Miles Driven Per Year: _____

10,000 incl. vacation = 833 miles/month
 (Divide annual # by 12 for monthly average)

Please list the cost per year of:

1) Depreciation this year: \$ _____
 (Use the steps on page 2 to figure your vehicle's annual depreciation)

\$1,866 this year

2) License, property tax: \$ _____
 & registration fees

\$ 341 per year

3) Insurance \$ _____
 (annual total)

\$1,008 per year

4) Maintenance, tires: \$ _____
 (annual total)

\$ 520 (5.2 cents/mile average estimate)

5) Total items 1-4 and divide by 12: \$ _____

\$3,735 divided by 12 = \$312 per month

Please list the cost per month of:

6) Car payment: \$ _____

\$ 610 per month

7) Gasoline, oil: \$ _____

\$ 60 (7.1 cents/mile average estimate)

8) Parking fees: \$ _____

\$ 75 per month

TOTAL ITEMS 5-8 ABOVE: \$ _____

\$1,057 Average Monthly Cost to Own and Operate (or approx. \$265 per week)

*To find the Blue Book Value see the automobile section of the Seattle times at <http://classifieds.nwsourc.com/autos/researchit/kbb.html>

Your Vehicle's Depreciation

To calculate how much your vehicle will lose in value this year, use the examples at the bottom of the page, **OR** do the following steps:

- A. Find and write down the current Blue Book Value of your car or vehicle from the automobile section of the Seattle times at <http://classifieds.nwsourc.com/autos/researchit/kbb.html>
- B. Figure out and write down how old your car is.
- C. Estimate and write down how many more years of good use the car has left (if you're not sure, subtract the current age of the car from 12 and assume use this figure as an estimate of how many years of use your car may have).
- D. Then go to the following web site (http://www.financenter.com/solutions/centers/auto_components.fcs), and click on the link labeled "How much should depreciation cost me?," and a window will pop up with a depreciation calculator.
- E. In the first blank for "Purchase Price," put the CURRENT BLUE BOOK VALUE of your car (item A from above).
- F. In the second blank for "Vehicle Age in Years," put the CURRENT AGE of your car (item B from above).
- G. In the third blank for "Years You Will Own the Vehicle," put the NUMBER OF YEARS LEFT of good use your car has (item C from above).
- H. For "Future Depreciation," SELECT AVERAGE, and then click the "NEXT" arrow on the lower right hand side of the screen.
- I. When it finishes calculating, use the dollar amount for the "First Year's Depreciation" as the amount of value you will lose this year. **Put this in blank #1 on the first page.**

Example: a 2000 Dodge Caravan minivan with some features is currently valued at \$12,780. In 2002, it would be 2 years old, and let's estimate it has 10 years of use left. Using the online calculator, the value lost for the current year would be \$1,533.

Examples

The following 5 vehicles were calculated using the steps above. If your car is similar to one of these, you may use the amount of depreciation shown for the first blank on page 1.

1997 Dodge Caravan (minivan) with 67,000 miles	Depreciation per year: \$1,284
1997 Ford Explorer (SUV) with 67,000 miles	Depreciation per year: \$1,589
1997 Saturn SL (4 door sedan) with 67,000 miles	Depreciation per year: \$ 945
1997 Hyundai Accent (hatchback) with 67,000 miles	Depreciation per year: \$ 636
1997 Toyota Tacoma (light truck) with 67,000 miles	Depreciation per year: \$1,327

Note: The overall convenience of this method of calculating car costs outweighs the minor liberties taken with depreciation costs. Any individual household is invited to develop a more precise figure for their situation.



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Car Ownership Emissions Chart

This helps you determine monthly emissions for the car you own. Pick from the categories of vehicles represented the one that is most like your car: SUV's, Minivans, 4 Door Sedans, Compact Cars, and Light Trucks. To determine the exact emissions information for your make, model, and year of vehicle please refer to the following web site: <http://209.10.107.169/tailpipetally/>.

- If the vehicle you are calculating is your *primary* vehicle, assume you drive it approximately

800 miles per month.

- If the vehicle you are calculating is your *second or third* vehicle, assume you drive it approximately 250 miles per month.
- Figures for emissions pollutants are in pounds.

		carbon dioxide	carbon monoxide	nitrogen oxide	hydrocarbon	Total
1997 Dodge Caravan						
minivan	per mile	0.9524	0.019208	0.002824	0.000864	0.98
	primary per month	761.92	15.3664	2.2592	0.6912	780.24
	secondary per month	238.1	4.802	0.706	0.216	243.82
1997 Ford Explorer						
SUV	per mile	1.17648	0.019208	0.002824	0.000864	1.20
	primary per month	941.184	15.3664	2.2592	0.6912	959.50
	secondary per month	294.12	4.802	0.706	0.216	299.84
1997 Saturn SL						
4 door sedan	per mile	0.66672	0.01544	0.00192	0.00072	0.68
	primary per month	533.376	12.352	1.536	0.576	547.84
	secondary per month	166.68	3.86	0.48	0.18	171.20
1997 Hyundai Accent						
compact hatchback	per mile	0.6452	0.01544	0.001928	0.00072	0.66
	primary per month	516.16	12.352	1.5424	0.576	530.63
	secondary per month	161.3	3.86	0.482	0.18	165.82
1997 Toyota Tacoma						
light truck	per mile	0.90912	0.019208	0.002824	0.000864	0.93
	primary per month	727.296	15.3664	2.2592	0.6912	745.61
	secondary per month	227.28	4.802	0.706	0.216	233.00

Figures derived through use of the Tailpipe Tally link on web site at www.environmentaldefense.org.

2002 WAY TO GO TRAVEL DIARY – NON DRIVING PERIOD

I Started The Day At: Time: _____ Circle one: home, friend, other _____	Things to Remember: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fill out a new page for each day. Use an additional page if you make more than 8 trips in one day. Fill in your odometer reading for your cars at the start of the baseline, the end of the baseline; and the end of the project. 				DATE: _____ PAGE: _____ Household Name: _____ Your Name: _____
ACTIVITY (work, school, day care, shop, doctor, home, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For line 1, enter your first activity from where you started your day. For each subsequent line, enter your next activity. Record each activity separately. (e.g., work to convenience store, convenience store to home are two separate activities.) 	HOW (<i>CHOOSE ONE</i>): Car1 – Driver Car2 – Driver Bike Bus Borrowed Car – Driver Rental Car – Driver FlexCar – Driver Taxi Walk Other (Ferry, etc.) (If you drive the car you agreed to not use, identify it as car 0)	Were you a Rider? (in a carpool) Choose HH for Household Carpool (rode together with household member), or NHH for a non-Household Carpool.	DISTANCE ESTIMATE MILES FOR EACH ACTIVITY	COST Include: parking, transit, taxi, and ferry fares, etc. Do not include: gas, repairs and maintenance	Is this a 'Saved Trip'? Answer "Yes" or "No" and add any additional Comments about this trip
1.		HH NHH			Y N
2.		HH NHH			Y N
3.		HH NHH			Y N
4.		HH NHH			Y N
5.		HH NHH			Y N
6.		HH NHH			Y N

Comments (observations about your experience with one less car): What was difficult, or easier than you thought it would be? Did you take any trips out of the ordinary? Which ones? Please list any trips you skipped taking due to lack of access to a car and/or not feeling like using another mode of transportation.



2002 Pre-Program Questionnaire

Please print this out and return the completed by the end of **Monday, August 12th** or as soon as possible. This form can be returned in the following ways:

By mail to:
Way to Go "One-Less-Car"
c/o SDOT-PPMP
Municipal Building, 4th Floor
600 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

By Fax to:
(206) 233-0085
Attention: Way to Go
"One-Less-Car"

We estimate it takes around 15 minutes to complete this questionnaire. We are asking you the first question because we want to make sure each driving member of the household is willing to try to get around with one-less-car. We also want to make sure you are aware that this program is not just for commute trips, but for all trips including non-work related trips on the weekends.

1. Is each driving member of the household aware they will be participating in this program and filling out the daily travel diaries?
(Please have each driving member of the household write their name and sign below that they agree to try to get by with "one less car" and provide send the City their travel diaries once a week.)

<u>Name (print)</u>	<u>Signature</u>
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____

2. What is the business name and street address of where the driver(s) in your household work? *(We are interested in this information so we can understand what your commute trip – from home to work and back – is like.)*

<u>Business Name</u>	<u>Street Address with City</u>
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____

3. How will you get around on the weekends?

Each driver should think of a typical weekend trip. List the trips that s/he makes and how they normally make these trips (car, bus, walk, bicycle, taxi, carpool, etc.). Then list how you anticipate making that same typical trip without access to the car. (We'll give you more information and ideas at the kick-off meeting, so just do your best).

Please think about the following considerations:

- Would not having a car affect the order in which you make these trips?
- What trips might you delete? What trips might you combine?
- How would you plan with other members of the household to accomplish all the day's tasks?

List a typical weekend trip(s): _____

example: to grocery store

List How You Normally Make Them: _____

by car

List How You Will Make Them During Way to Go: _____

take bus route #7, and time trip to catch it to go back home

4. Where do you think you can reduce your car usage most?

5. On average how long does your household's car(s) remain parked until you use it next - not counting when it is typically parked overnight?

(Choose one unit of time that best fits your answer, and write in a number)

____ Hour(s) or ____ Day(s) or ____ Week(s)

6. In general, when you or someone in your household needs to go somewhere, do you consciously think about what means to use to get there (car, bus, walking, etc.)?

Yes

No

6b. If yes, please give an example, and indicate how you choose the mode to use.

7. Other than getting to work and back, does your household make regular trips during the week without using your car(s)?

- Yes
 No

7b. If yes, please give an example of these regular trips not using your car(s), and *if possible* tell us the destination and approximate distance of the trip in your example.

8. When there is a need to go somewhere that is not part of the usual schedule, how often does your household use another means of getting there other than your car? (*Check one*)

- Hardly Rarely Sometimes Often Frequently

8b. Please give an example of these trips, and *if possible* tell us the destination and approximate distance of the trip in your example.

9. How many times in the past MONTH have members of your household used the following modes of transportation to make a trip: (*Check one for each mode*)

Bus	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Twice a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Week	<input type="checkbox"/> More than Once a Week
Bike	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Twice a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Week	<input type="checkbox"/> More than Once a Week
Walk	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Twice a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Week	<input type="checkbox"/> More than Once a Week
Rode Together	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Twice a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Week	<input type="checkbox"/> More than Once a Week
Formal Car/Vanpool	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Twice a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Week	<input type="checkbox"/> More than Once a Week
Used FlexCar	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Twice a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Week	<input type="checkbox"/> More than Once a Week
Took a Taxi	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Twice a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Week	<input type="checkbox"/> More than Once a Week
Other (specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Twice a Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a Week	<input type="checkbox"/> More than Once a Week

10. Any general comments/or concerns? (*Please use back of this page if needed.*)

Way to Go Study Ending Evaluation
HOW DID IT GO?
FALL 2002

Please get input from everyone in your household to complete this evaluation, and turn it in as you would a Travel Diary (by fax, e-mail, or postal mail) – only 1 evaluation per household. *Please use the back of this form or another sheet if you need more space for your answers.*

Way to Go, Seattle!
SDOT-PPMP
Key Tower, 39th Floor
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3900
Seattle , WA 98104-5043

Fax: 206-684-5180
E-mail: Waytogo@Seattle.gov

YOUR HOUSEHOLD NAME:

On Getting Around with ‘One-Less-Car’:

1. What was the best experience you had getting around with ‘one-less-car’?

2. What was the hardest time for you – when you really wanted to give up and drive Car 0?

3. When you had ‘one-less-car’ to use, which methods did your household use in making trips compared to before the study began?
(Rank all of the following that apply from 1 to 3, in order of 1 being the method used the most, and 3 being the method used the least. If a method(s) is not used, leave it blank.)

___ Combining trips together instead of making them separately.

___ Stopped making some trips altogether.

___ Continue to make the same trips but use non-car modes of travel instead.

3b. If you **stopped** making some trips, which ones did you stop making and why?

3c. If you **continued** making the same trips, what other ways did you use to make those trips and why? *(We are especially interested in knowing if you just drove your remaining car more often to make the same trips or if you used other transportation choices to make the same trips).*

4. Did you ever try taking a taxi during the Study?

Yes

No

4b. If **'No'**, why not? If **'Yes'**, how was it?

4c. If **'Yes'**, did having your weekly stipend amount in your pocket help you get over the barrier about the potential cost of taking a cab?

5. If you have kids, what did they think? (*Was it hard to convince other people in your household to participate in the Study?*)

6. How much was weather and the time of year a factor in your choices.
(*Check one*)

Hardly

Rarely

Sometimes

Often

Frequently

6b. If the weather had been colder and rainier would it have significantly changed your decisions (i.e. walking or taking a bus)?

7. In general, was getting around with 'one-less-car' **more** or **less** frustrating than sitting or being stuck in traffic?

More

Less

On Giving Up Your 'Extra' Car Permanently:

8. How much on average did you spend each week getting around **without** your 'extra' car that you **would not have spent** if you had been using your 'extra' car?
(Check one)

- Less than \$5.00 per week
- Between \$5.01 and \$10.00 per week
- Between \$10.01 and \$15.00 per week
- Between \$15.01 and \$20.00 per week
- Between \$20.01 and \$25.00 per week
- Between \$25.01 and \$30.00 per week
- Over \$30.01 per week – specify how much: \$_____

- 8b. Was the amount indicated in #8 **more** or **less** than the weekly stipend amount you were 'saving' by not using the 'extra' car?

- More
- Less

- 8c. Overall was it **cheaper** or **more expensive** to get around with 'one-less-car' than the costs of owning/operating an 'extra' car?

- Cheaper
- More Expensive

9. Do you think you'll sell your "extra" car now that you have gone 9 weeks without using it?

- Yes
- No

- 9b. If 'Yes', what motivates you to sell it?

- 9c. If 'No', why not - what are the reasons?

- 9d. If you don't know if you'll sell your extra car yet, what else would you help you know enough to decide? (For instance, If you had done this study for longer, such as 4 months, would you know?)

10. In general, when you or someone in your household needs to go somewhere now, how much do you consciously think about what means to use to get there (car, bus, walking, etc.)? *(Check one)*

- Hardly Rarely Sometimes Often Frequently

10b. Please give an example of when you consciously think about or decide on what means to use to go somewhere, and indicate how you choose the mode to use.

11. What changes in how your family makes trips has your household made as a result of participating in the study? *(For example, what have been the biggest, hardest, easiest, or most rewarding changes?)*

12. What was the primary way your household spent the money you “saved” during the study *(i.e. we ate out more often, we used it to buy bicycles, we put in our child’s college fund, etc.)?*

On Improving the Study:

13. What lasting changes do you think will come of your participation in the study?
(Such as, “Will you usually think more about whether you’ll need to drive?” or “Will you choose the bus or biking or walking or carpooling or taxis just because you liked other things about it?”)
14. What do you think the overall effect of participating in the study has been for your household? *(Use the back of this sheet if you need more room for your answer.)*
15. In our next phase of the project we are intending to create a public education campaign to build awareness of what you and the households in the study discovered about the feasibility of living with ‘one-less-car’.
What do you think would be most important for Seattlites to know about your household’s experience(s)?
16. What do you suggest we change about the study (and why)?
17. What do you suggest we keep the same about the study (and why)?
18. What kind of tips do you have for others considering giving up a car (either their second car or their first car)?

Thank you!

**Way to Go Study Follow Up Evaluation
Several Months Later
May 2003**

As you may recall, you agreed to participate in a follow-up survey in your original contract. Doing so will help us determine the amount of lasting changes in travel behavior due to participation in the **Way to Go, Seattle!!** Project.

Please complete one of these evaluations per household, and turn it in as you would a Travel Diary. Please use the back of this form or another sheet if you need more space for answers. We expect this survey will take under 30 minutes to complete.

Fax to (206) 684-5180 "Attention: Randy Wiger" or,
E-mail to waytogo@seattle.gov, or
Postal mail to:
Randy Wiger/Way to Go
c/o SDOT-PPMP
Key Tower, 39th Floor
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3900
Seattle, WA 98104-5043

On the Cars Your Household Uses:

1. HOUSEHOLD NAME:

2. What is the current odometer reading of your car(S)?

Make/Model: _____ Odom Reading: _____

Make/Model: _____ Odom Reading: _____

3. How many cars does your household currently own/use? (Check one.)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- more (# _____)

4. Are all of these the same vehicles your household owned during the 12 weeks of the demonstration project in 2002? (Check one.)

- Yes
- No

4b. If no, please explain what vehicles have changed, and describe the reasons for the vehicles changing:

5. **If your household did sell your "extra" car at the end of the project, skip to #4.**
 If your household decided not to sell your "extra" car at the end of the demonstration project, have you reconsidered selling it? (*Check one.*)

- Yes
- No
- We have sold it *since* the end of the project

5b. **If you have sold your "extra car" since the end of the project, skip to # 3d.**
 Have your reasons for not selling your "extra" car changed since the end of the project? (*Check one.*)

- Yes
- No

5c. **If your answer to #3b above was "No", skip to #4.**
 If your reasons for not selling your "extra" car have changed since the end of the project, please tell us how and/or why they have changed.

5d. **If you answered #3c above, skip to #4.**
 If your household has sold your "extra" car since the end of the project, what were your reasons, and how and/or why have they changed.

On How Your Household Gets Around:

6. As compared to ***during the portion of the project using "one less car"***, do you feel your household is driving: (*Circle the number that best describes your situation.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A lot less than during the project (up to 60% less)	Somewhat less than during the project (up to 30% less)	The same amount as during the project (equal to using "one less car")	Somewhat more than during the project (up to 30% more)	A lot more than during the project (up to 60% more)	The same amount as <i>before</i> the project	More than <i>before</i> the project (over 100% more)

7. Has anything happened since the end of the study, (November 24, 2002), which led to a change in the typical use of your household's vehicle(s) (such as a vacation, change in residence or employment location, mechanical breakdown, or other things that would cause unusually more **or** less mileage, etc.)? *(Check one.)*

Yes

No

- 7b. If yes, please provide details that would help us understand how your household's non-typical use might affect our comparison of your vehicle(s) odometer reading between the end of the project and now. *(Use the back of this sheet if you need more room for your answer.)***

Please include:

- Approximate date(s) or length of time of non-typical usage:

- Which car(s) was affected (make, model, year):

- Which driver(s) was primarily affected:
(Put "both" if both were equally affected.)

- Reason(s) for non-typical usage:
(Such as a vacation, change in residence or employment location, mechanical breakdown, or other things that would cause unusually more or less mileage, etc.)

- Amount/mileage **PER WEEK** of atypical usage, and whether this atypical usage created **MORE** or **LESS** mileage?

8. On average how long does your household's car(s) remain parked until you use it next - not counting when it is typically parked overnight?
(Choose the unit of time that best fits your answer, and write in a number.)

____ Hour(s) or ____ Day(s) or ____ Week(s)

9. Since the end of the project, if your household uses your car(s) less, which methods have you used?

(Rank all of the following that apply from 1 to 3, in order of 1 being the method used the most, and 3 being the method used the least. If a method(s) is not used, leave it blank.)

___ Combining trips together instead of making them separately.

___ Stopped making some trips altogether.

___ Continue to make the same trips but use non-car modes of travel instead.

10. When there is a need to go somewhere that is not part of the usual schedule, how often does your household use another means of getting there other than your car? (Check one.)

Hardly Rarely Sometimes Often Frequently

10b. Please give an example of these trips, and tell us the destination(s) and approximate distance(s).

11. What is the total number of trips using the following modes - and the total number of miles using each mode - that everyone in your household made **in the last week**: (Remember, trips are from one point to another, so going to the store and back is counted as 2 trips.)

<i>MODE</i>	<i># of TRIPS</i>	<i>MILES (your best guess)</i>
Car	_____	_____
Flexcar	_____	_____
Bus	_____	_____
Bike	_____	_____
Walk	_____	_____
Taxi	_____	_____
Other (specify)	_____	_____

12. How much did your household spend getting around **last week** – not counting car costs such as gas, insurance, maintenance, etc.? *(In dollars.)*

12b. How much does your household spend getting around **on an average week** – not counting car costs such as gas, insurance, maintenance, etc.? *(In dollars.)*

13. Other than getting to work and back, does your household make regular trips during the week without using your car(s)?

Yes

No

13b. If yes, please give an example of these regular trips not using your car(s), and tell us the destination(s) and approximate distance(s).

13c. Please estimate the number and miles of these trips not using your car(s) which your household makes per week.

The number of **Trips** of regular trips per week *not using your car*:

The number of **Miles** of regular trips per week *not using your car*:

13d. The **Number** of these trips *not using your car* is: *(Check one.)*

More than during
the project

Same amount as
during the project

Less than during
the project

Note: This will help us understand if you have made travel changes that may not be evident in the comparisons of your vehicle(s) odometer readings.

On Changes Your Household Made:

14. In general, when you or someone in your household needs to go somewhere, do you consciously think about what means to use to get there (car, bus, walking, etc.)?

Yes

No

14b. If yes, please give an example, and indicate how you choose the mode to use.

15. What changes in how your family makes trips has your household made as a result of participating in the demonstration project? *(For example, what have been the biggest, hardest, easiest, or most rewarding changes?)*

16. Why has your household made the change(s) described in the preceding question - what is your household's motivation?

(Rank all of the following that apply from 1 to 10, in order of 1 being the most important, and 10 being the least important. If a reason does not apply, leave it blank. Please use every number from 1 to 10, and use each number only once.)

___ Because of the money we save.

___ Because we want to pollute less.

___ Because of the reduced frustration and/or time saved by using our car less.

___ Because of health benefits of using modes of travel other than our car.

___ Because of increased comfort or familiarity with using modes of travel other than our car.

___ Because of the ease of use and /or availability of modes of travel other than our car.

___ Because of the increased quality time we have with family and/or friends by using modes of travel other than our car.

___ Because of wanting to live more simply and "discover" our neighborhood and/or city.

___ Because our household make up or logistics has changed.

___ Because of (*other – please specify*):

17. If you do not have kids, write N/A and skip to #16.

If you have kids, how has making the changes described in the preceding questions affected them?

18. If the weather this past winter and spring has had an effect on how your household has chosen to get around, please describe that here.

(If the weather has not had an effect, then write N/A and skip to #17.)

19. What tips does your household have for others who are trying to make lasting changes in how they get around?

20. What do you think the overall effect half a year after participating in the demonstration project has been for your household? *(Use the back of this sheet if you need more room for your answer.)*

21. If there are any other thoughts your household would like to share about your experience please include them here. *(Use the back of this sheet if you need more room for your answer.)*

Thank You!

April 16, 2001



CITY OF SEATTLE

Paul Schell, Mayor

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Steve Nicholas, Director

Mayor Schell Urges Seattle Citizens to
Celebrate Earth Day by Reducing Car Travel

April 19 is Seattle's Car Smart Earth Day; Seattle's opportunity to join with other cities around the world that are celebrating International Earth Car-Free Day. Mayor Paul Schell is calling on every Seattle citizen to make the kind of smart transportation choices that will reduce traffic congestion and air pollution, and save money.

Many Seattle residents are already doing just that, including the 22 families who participated in "Way to Go, Seattle!" a City of Seattle experiment to see if people could get along without their "extra" car for six weeks. The experiences of these families point the way for all of us.

"I now always question how we plan on getting places", said Mary Pat and Jay Gotschall, "I feel more free not being chained to the car. More interaction with people and the world."

During the six-week experiment the Gotshalls saved an average of \$55 dollars a week (based on the cost of owning a second car) and reduced their car travel by 131 trips and 339 miles - an average of 57 miles per week. They also kept 271 pounds of carbon dioxide (a major greenhouse gas) out of the atmosphere.

Another "Way to Go" family, Bill & Janeen Bramwell, have decided to sell their second car. "I think we're going to sell the extra car...we really don't need it and it is a waste of money to hang on to it." Added Bill, "I have come to rely on the bus much more but I will use the bike simply because the exercise feels good and it really doesn't take any more time - maybe less. I have organized my riding things so that it is quick and less hassle to get out of the house on the bike."

By trying different ways to get around, plus more carefully planning the use of their remaining car, the 22 families made nearly 300 fewer car trips per week during the study. The 300 fewer trips per week equaled about 1,400 miles not driven through our neighborhoods each week.

Less driving by just these 22 families meant about 6,500 fewer pounds of carbon dioxide, CO₂, were pumped into the atmosphere in just 6 weeks. If that CO₂ were compressed into elemental carbon such as charcoal, it would fill more than 175 10-pound bags, or be equal to roughly three swimming pools of pollution in the air.

Other pollutants that did not end up in the atmosphere as a result of just this brief experiment included nearly 400 pounds of carbon monoxide, about 30 pounds of nitrogen oxides and more than 50 pounds of unburned hydrocarbons. Oxides of nitrogen and unburned hydrocarbons are the two major components of smog.