

ON CAR DRIVING

personal testimonies by folks
who limit car use

"Maybe I was pushed along by the coincidence of chicken pox in our household (no driving at all), but I am going to try not driving at all. My husband drives to work, so he can buy groceries. I have withdrawn my son from his clearly frivolous karate lessons. I am going to pay their cello teacher without attending classes at least until Easter. I am going to try walking to church.

Staying home has been an immediate blessing. My children are calmer, I am less stressed. We have taken more beautiful hikes than we have in the last two years. Our garden is looking good. Food is getting cooked. Maybe being home has done something even more important: it has put me in the position to really seek a direct connection with Jesus as the most important thing in my life. I can see more clearly that not only the people of Iraq and other poor countries are victims; we are victims too because we are estranged from our only true source of peace."

—Julie Gregonis, Blacksburg, VA

"Realizing how much my car use was contributing to our nation going to war and causing so much harm to the earth, I decided to walk to church one Sunday. Had to get up at 3 a.m.—it's over 16 miles. I got some television coverage for my trouble—and made my own small protest against war and against a way of life that is destroying God's creation."

—Bob Etzweiler, Putney, VT

"I was in my 12th grade economics class and we were talking about supply and demand. A student said that gasoline was a need; a basic necessity to live and survive. I brought up the 'absurd' idea that people can walk or bike, and that we do not NEED to drill for oil in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I am not talking about a polite classroom discussion, but 32 heavily opinionated people—teacher included—against me. And I won. I know I am bragging, but hopefully it was one small step for me, and one hopefully large step for earth's kind."

—Jillian Wagner, LeMoyné, PA

The New Community Project is a faith-based organization promoting peace through justice, care for the earth and experiential learning. NCP has a national network and international partners. Our work includes:

- sponsoring Learning Tours to the Arctic, Amazon, Central America, Sudan, and Nepal
- offering speakers on topics including global warming, globalization, consumerism, gender justice, and child labor
- providing a wide array of print and web-based resources and newsletters

NCP is a nonprofit organization funded primarily by individual donations. Visit our website to sign up for mailings and to learn about our programs and resources.

- People are struggling • The earth is a mess
- God's not amused • You're not satisfied
- Do something about it



"On behalf of me and my fellow critters, thank you!"

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New Community Project

TRAINS, PLANES, CARS... AND BIKES

*User's Guide for Alternative
Ways of Getting Around in a
Car-Centered World
(and maybe
finding peace, fitness and a better
planet in the process!)*



"The way you guys drive is nuts!"

“What causes wars, and what causes fighting among you? You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and can not obtain; so you fight and wage war.” —James 4:1-2

**CUTTING BACK ON
CAR USE AS A
STEP TOWARD
PEACE, HEALTH,
AND THE
RESTORATION OF
GOD'S CREATION.**

FAST FACTS

- ✓ With 4 percent of the world's population, the United States consumes 25 percent of the petroleum and 43 percent of the gasoline. 60 percent of our petroleum is imported, with 30 percent coming from the volatile Middle East. The US is also the main importer of Ecuador's petroleum, where oil drilling is damaging the rainforest and native communities.
- ✓ Car use is a primary cause of global warming, with every gallon of gas consumed producing 20 pounds of CO₂. Flying instead of driving? This will have about twice the warming impact per passenger mile.
- ✓ The average US household makes 60 car trips per week, with preschoolers spending an average of 65 minutes a day in the car.
- ✓ Compared to bus travel, car travel produces 3 times the global warming gases per mile and over 4 times the toxic air pollution; air travel vs. bus creates 1.7 times the global warming gases and .6 the toxic air pollution; rail travel creates 1.2 times the global warming gases and over twice as much air pollution; jet skis and boats—lots of pollution, along with fuel leakage equivalent to multiple Exxon Valdez spills annually.
- ✓ Riding a bike a thousand miles uses energy equivalent to one gallon of gasoline. Half of US car trips are easily bikable (under 2 miles)—and you get to know the neighborhood.
- ✓ Every mile not driven spares .0001 squirrels and other creatures (cars kill 50 million critters per year globally).

**IDEAS FOR
CHALLENGING THE
CAR CULTURE**

- ◆ Get on a bike—or try walking for a change. Half of our trips away from home are less than two miles in length—health experts say if we walked that much more each day, we wouldn't have a national obesity epidemic. Combine trips. Make car driving your transportation choice of last resort. Double or triple your mileage by purchasing a hybrid.
- ◆ Challenge your faith community or school or workplace to set aside a day when members consciously walk, bike or carpool. Calculate the CO₂ and squirrel savings. Get newspaper coverage—they love stories of people doing crazy but purposeful things!
- ◆ Don't forget the hidden transportation costs of everyday activities: Food items that travel an average of 1500 miles to our tables; freighters that bring products from distant shores (air pollution by one container ship travelling one mile equals pollution from 25,000 car miles); producing and shipping bottled water and recycling or disposing of the bottles requires 55 million barrels of oil per year.
- ◆ Getting out of the car decreases the need for more malls, highways and parking lots. In the past 10 years, US cities have lost 20% of their trees due to suburban sprawl—with resulting health costs of over \$250 billion and loss of critical wildlife habitat.
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- ◆ Invite NCP to your school, faith community or youth retreat to talk about living responsibly with God's earth. We bring information, passion and much-needed sense of humor to the environmental challenges of our times.