

2009 Program Overview

2009 was an award winning year for the CommuteInfo program. The CommuteInfo program is dedicated to increasing the number of commuters in Southwestern PA sharing a ride to work or school. The goal is for commuters living, working or attending school within the 10-county SPC region to choose ridesharing at least twice a week by providing them with viable options, incentives and encouragement.

Working through cooperative partnerships with transportation management associations, transportation providers, businesses and non-profit service organizations, the CommuteInfo program is able to provide services throughout the Southwestern Pennsylvania region.



The Year at a Glance

- ⇒ **529** participants in the regional vanpool program (**43** vanpools).
- ⇒ **492** participants in the regional carpool program (**230** carpools).
- ⇒ **61** participants registered for bikepool matching.
- ⇒ Added **586** new commuters into the ridematching database.
- ⇒ Responded to **870** calls from commuters, providing information on transit, vanpools, carpools, bikepools and park-n-ride facility locations.

Estimated Program Benefits

For the year, assuming 20% of the match reports result in a rideshare arrangement

- ⇒ **\$3,434,273** Commuting Costs Saved
- ⇒ **221.31** Carbon Monoxide Reduction (tons)
- ⇒ **29.03** Volatile Organic Compounds Reduction (tons)
- ⇒ **35.65** Oxides of Nitrogen Reduction (tons)

The year included continued development of a localized corridor-based outreach model, assistance in developing a new downtown Pittsburgh bike parking facility, several train the trainer educational sessions, webinars and on-going program monitoring and evaluation.

The CommuteInfo program continued to offer its core set of services, including a toll free number 1-888-819-6110, and a website (www.commuteinfo.org) for information and referrals, vanpool/carpool rider matching, consultations with employers about their relocation as well as their employees' transportation needs, transit/biking/walking resources and information about park-n-ride facilities.

During 2009, the CommuteInfo program received the Earth Friend Award. The award was sponsored by Sony, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and WTAE-TV. The Earth Friend Award is presented to recognize specific efforts being made by persons, schools, groups, organizations, or communities to

improve or conserve our environment and our communities in the Greater Pittsburgh Region.

The Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County also recognized the CommuteInfo program's localized corridor-based outreach efforts with an award and a U.S. House of Representatives Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition in acknowledgment of the program's efforts supporting Smart Growth practices and contributions to the Smart Growth effort in Westmoreland County.

