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AUGUST 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

- Theme: Smart Traveling
- Upcoming Events:
- Don't Drive Day
- This Month's 'Powerful' Profile: June Blotnick
- Did You Know?
- Green Car Guide
- Idling doesn't get you anywhere
- Recycling Awareness Uptown
- Driving Green Tips
- Improved Recycle It! Program Exceeds First-Year Goal
- Airport Fire Station Earns Environmental Certification

MONTHLY FACTOID

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A typical commuter, who switches from driving alone to

THEME: SMART TRAVELING

It's summer, and considering all of the traveling you most likely have done lately, and will be doing, we thought it was a good time to discuss alternative traveling and commuting options in this month's newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- August 22nd- Air Quality Commission ([INFO >](#))
- August 23rd- USGBC Lunch Program- "Blower Door Testing: Not Just for Homes Anymore" ([INFO >](#))
- August 24th- Sierra Club Meeting ([INFO >](#))
- September 8th- NCSEA Hosts: "Clean Energy in the Mountains" in Asheville, NC ([INFO >](#))
- September 21st- Solar Exchange East 2011 in Raleigh ([INFO >](#))
- September 28th- Sierra Club Meeting ([INFO >](#))
- October - Energy Awareness Month
- October 1st- Plaza Midwood Neighborhood's Free Home Energy Audit and Installation workshop ([INFO >](#))
- October 27th- USGBC Signature Event: "Charlotte: An Emerging Leader for Sustainable Change" ([INFO >](#))
- November 9th- NCSEA's "Making Energy Work" Conference in Raleigh ([INFO >](#))

DON'T DRIVE DAY

This event that was held on August 11th, was a big success this year, as over **551 people participated** (45% of which stated they would have normally driven alone).

Charlotte offers many different convenient options for commuting. Check out what some of "Don't Drive Day" participants had to say about the option they chose for the day, and hopefully will continue to do in the future:

* A **CATS rider** states: "I love taking the bus! It's a hidden gem in the game of commuting to work. Instead of driving, I can work, read, or listen to music all in the comfort of a CATS plush bus seat to and from work."

* A **carpooler** states: "It felt good conserving fuel and helping 'go green'. I plan to try to do this as often as possible now."

using commuter alternatives like the bus, saves more than \$2,600 a year in average expenses.

FORWARD TO A FRIEND

* A **walker** states: *"I have come to find out how refreshing these walks are every day. The health magazine says that an average person needs 30 minutes of exercise everyday for a healthy life and more than 5000 steps a day. My walks to work help achieve these goals without having to set apart time as an exercise schedule. Saving money, going green and promoting a healthy life for myself is what I have gained."*

* A **LYNX rider** states: *"I always enjoy riding the Lynx because it gives me a chance to catch my breath after rushing to leave the house and it is my way of detoxing after work before arriving at home. It is a stress reducer as well as something that is great for the environment, reduction in the cost of transportation as well as a cost savings to me."*

* A **biker** states: *"My favorite thing about riding to work is that you get so see so much more and even meet people on the way in. Now that I'm used to riding my bike most of the time, when I do have to drive it feels very inconvenient to have to lug that big vehicle around."*

THIS MONTH'S 'POWERFUL' PROFILE: JUNE BLOTNICK

June Blotnick is the Executive Director of **Clean Air Carolina**, and has been working for the past 6 years to strike a delicate balance between advocacy and educational initiatives that benefit the Charlotte community and improve the air quality issues the city faces. Throughout her life she has continually found herself involved with environmental issues, whether it be a "Litter League" she began in her childhood neighborhood in Pittsburgh, PA, to starting an environmental action group on her campus at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she graduated with a degree in Sociology. She then went on to get her Graduate degree in Education from Appalachian University. When she's not working you can find her enjoying the outdoors and helping out at community gardens, specifically as a leader with Midwood Park Community Garden, as well as spending time with her husband, Doug Sea, and two children.

June talks about her belief that the public does indeed want cleaner transportation and energy sources and would support these initiatives if they are educated about the issues, and says, ***"Until we transition to a clean energy economy, we must do all we can to educate the public about the connection between their use of electricity and transportation and its direct relationship to air pollution and climate change. Finding a "clean commute" to work (bus, transit, bicycle, carpool, work from home, etc.) at least once a week and reducing household electricity consumption by 20% are good goals we can all strive towards."***

(TO READ MORE CLICK HERE >)

DID YOU KNOW?

CATS provides a Ridematching System to make it easier for you to find people close by that are interested in Carpooling. *Carpooling can save you up to \$300 per month in fuel, parking, maintenance, insurance, etc. costs, and you are helping reduce harmful emissions.*

(CLICK HERE >) or call 704.336.7433

GREEN CAR GUIDE

Do you know the difference between an Electric Vehicle (EV) and a Plug-in hybrid (PHEV)? Do you know what cars are available, and which would best suit your lifestyle? Find out this and more by **(CLICKING HERE >)**

IDLING DOESN'T GET YOU ANYWHERE

What is idling?

An idling vehicle is one whose engine is running when it is parked or not in motion. This is most common in traffic, drive-thrus, and waiting in lines at schools etc.

It's important to remember, even though your vehicle is not moving, it's still polluting the air.

What you can do...

1. Park and go inside restaurants instead of going through the drive-thru
2. Shorten the warm-up: warming up or cooling off a car for a lengthy amount of time is not needed. A 30 second warm-up should do just fine.
3. Turn off your car if you'll be idling longer than 30 seconds. Just 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than re-starting the engine.
4. If you must idle, put it into neutral. This will give your engine a well-deserved break, and produces fewer emissions.

- Idling your vehicle for just 10 minutes can use as much fuel as it takes to travel 5 miles.

- Idling your vehicle for 10 minutes a day uses more than 27 gallons of fuel a year.

- Nine billion gallons of fuel are wasted in traffic each year.

RECYCLING AWARENESS UPTOWN



Charita Curtis with Charlotte Solid Waste Services is interviewed at an Uptown recycling event on July 28th. T-shirts, Recycle It! tote bags and other giveaways were handed out along with information about recycling efforts uptown.

DRIVING GREEN TIPS

- Flooring the gas pedal not only wastes gas, it leads to drastically higher pollution rates. One second of high-powered driving can

produce nearly the same volume of carbon monoxide emissions as a half hour of normal driving.

- Think ahead. Try to anticipate stops and let your vehicle coast down as much as possible. Avoid the increased pollution, wasted gas, and wear on your brakes created by accelerating hard and braking hard.
- Follow the speed limit! Driving 75 mph instead of 65 mph will lower your fuel economy by about 10 percent, and can dramatically increase tailpipe pollution in many vehicles.
- When possible, plan your trips to avoid rush hour. Stop-and-go driving burns gas and increases emissions of smog-forming pollutants.
- Combine trips. Warmed-up engines and catalysts generate much less air pollution, so combining several short trips into one can make a big difference.
- Take a load off. Carrying around an extra 100 pounds reduces fuel economy by about 1 percent. Take a few moments to unload your cargo area.
- If your vehicle has it, use overdrive gear at cruising speeds. When driving a manual transmission, shift up as soon as possible. Running in a higher gear decreases the rpm and will decrease fuel use and engine wear.
- Try using the vents and opening windows to cool off before you turn on the air conditioner. Air conditioner use increases fuel consumption, increases NOx emissions in some vehicles, and involves environmentally damaging fluids.
- Keep your tires properly inflated. For every 3 pounds below recommended pressure, fuel economy goes down by about 1 percent. Tires can lose about 1 pound of pressure in a month, so check the air pressure regularly and always before going on a long trip or carrying heavy loads.
- If you have to park outdoors, windshield shades can cut down on summer heat and help keep the frost off in the winter.

(via <http://www.greencars.org/drivingtips.htm>)

IMPROVED RECYCLE IT! PROGRAM EXCEEDS FIRST-YEAR GOAL

The numbers prove it - Charlotte residents are taking advantage of the improved Recycle It! program. Since the transition to single-stream recycling a year ago, the residential recycling tonnage has increased by 30% in comparison to the same period last year. This exceeded the goal of 20% established for the first year of single-stream recycling.

Solid Waste Services noted the overall single-family recycling participation rate is now 50%, meaning approximately 50% of all households are setting recyclables out on their collection day, which is up from last year's 42%.

**(TO READ MORE ABOUT THIS PROGRAM AND ITS ACHEIVEMENTS
CLICK HERE >)**

AIRPORT FIRE STATION EARNS ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION



Fire Station No. 41 has received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification for new construction. It is the first LEED facility on Airport grounds. Buildings that have met LEED standards are built to be environmentally conscious and meet requirements set by the Green Building Certification Institute.

Fire Station No. 41, a 20,300-square foot facility, which opened in July 2010, became the first LEED facility on Charlotte Douglas Airport grounds. It was built with several sustainable features, which include water efficient landscaping, high efficiency lighting, and water conserving fixtures.

The Airport received Department of Defense funds totaling \$7.2 million dollars through the North Carolina Air National Guard to design and construct an Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) facility for the Airport. Fire Station No. 41 supports both the Charlotte Fire Department and NCANG firefighters as part of the Airport's emergency response efforts.

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