

**Supply Chain Management**

Learn about software for small & midsize consumer products companies

Business Process Modeling

for Compliance, Agility, and SOA. Align IT with LOB. Download Free!

Ads by Google

The E-Business Executive Daily

E-Business News

CLOSE

Best Commuter Workplacesby [Tamina Vahidy, Line56](#)

Friday, October 20, 2006

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released its list of the top 20 workplaces for commuters. The list, which follows below, is packed with tech companies.

1. Intel
2. Microsoft
3. (tie) Google and Oracle
5. QUALCOMM
6. Yahoo!
7. Cisco
8. Sun
9. Texas Instruments
10. Applied Materials
11. Safeco Insurance
12. Reliant Energy
13. Wyeth
14. Apple
15. IBM
16. Advanced Micro Devices
17. (tie) EMC, El Paso Corporation, and Nike
20. Schering-Plough

Below are the detailed explanations from the EPA about some of the featured companies and why they did so well:

Intel

With a universal vanpool and transit subsidy program (\$30 per month) and Emergency Ride Home services, Intel is a leader in commute-related benefits. Intel's intranet contains a section for commuters, which is intended to entertain as well as inform. Intel continues to weave flexibility into its corporate culture. Last year, 40 percent of its employees teleworked, while other staffers took advantage of flextime, compressed workweeks, part-time hours, and job-shares. All major work sites offer employees a number of great onsite amenities, such as fitness centers, locker rooms, basketball and volleyball courts, dry cleaning, sundries, photo development, and food court style cafes with menus that change daily.

Microsoft

Microsoft offers a comprehensive and extensive commute program, which includes providing a FlexPass to all fulltime Microsoft employees in the Seattle area free of charge. The pass is good for all rides on King County Metro and Sound Transit services to Microsoft. Microsoft also provides a \$65 vanpool subsidy.

Oracle

Oracle's Bay Area campuses operate shuttle systems that run between transit stations and the campuses during peak commuting hours. These worksites also sell discounted transit passes at campus facilities. Additionally, Oracle provides extensive onsite amenities such as cafes, pick-up and delivery dry cleaning service, a fitness center, bike lockers, and postal services. All qualifying

Oracle sites also have active telework programs and an extensive intranet site with links to all of Oracle commuter programs, regional traffic reports, Emergency Ride Home information, and alternative transportation updates.

Google

Google operates an extensive shuttle system throughout the San Francisco Bay Area to help employees who do not live near transit avoid driving to work. The shuttle system is free to all employees and runs along five different routes. The shuttle buses are equipped with bike racks, allowing employees who bike to complete their commutes to work via the shuttle. All shuttles are also set up with wireless internet access, so employees can work or use the internet while commuting. Google employees are also permitted to take their dogs to work, and all dogs are welcome on the shuttle buses.

Yahoo!

Yahoo! has offered its employees commuter benefits since 2000, but in mid-2005 the company expanded its commuter services dramatically. The company added long distance, WiFi-ready commuter shuttles to transport employees between offices in San Francisco, Sunnyvale, and Santa Clara. These coach vehicles are provided free of charge to employees. This new shuttle system helped increase ridership by 165 percent in just 10 months. In addition, Yahoo! enrolled in Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's Eco Pass Program, offering all employees free rides on the transit system's bus and light rail lines. Yahoo! also added bicycle lockers to its Sunnyvale site, increasing capacity by nearly 14 percent.

Sun

A large percentage of Sun employees--nearly 15,000--participate in Sun's iWork program, which enables employees to work from home, from drop-in centers, or at different campuses throughout the country. Employees at Sun's major campuses around the country also receive transit subsidies and/or prepaid transit passes to encourage and facilitate the use of public transit. In addition, Sun operates one of the largest employer operated transit shuttle programs in the entire Bay Area, with six vehicles operating seven different shuttle routes each workday. Sun also distributes information about commuter benefits and other regional commute programs via email and their SMART (Sun Microsystems Alternative Resources for Transportation) internal commute program Web site. Sun's comprehensive Commute Benefit program results in reduced commute trips being made by Sun employees, less air pollution, and less commute stress and cost for Sun employees.

IBM

IBM's corporate culture strongly supports telework. More than 32,000 IBM employees participate in the company's work-from-home "e-commute" program. Numerous locations also implement commuter assistance programs that provide employees with guidance on using alternative modes of transportation and Emergency Ride Home programs. Many locations also provide access to onsite amenities such as cafeterias and credit unions.

Find this article at: <http://www.line56.com/articles/default.asp?articleid=7973>

Anyone is free to make one copy of this article for personal use. This can include one photocopy, one printed copy, one email copy, or posting an HTML link (without text or photos). This includes use by a student for an academic purpose. If you would like to distribute multiple copies of this article for commercial use, please click below to visit our reprint vendor, Wright's Reprints.



[Click here for copyright and reprint information.](#)

© 2000-2006 Line56.com