



**EMBARGOED UNTIL: OCTOBER 18, 2006**



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Coalition Announces Fifth Annual List of  
Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>

*179 organizations and 4 districts, representing more than 317,000 employees,  
join EPA's national list of Best Workplaces for Commuters*



**San Francisco, CA (October 18, 2006)** — Today the Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters Coalition is releasing the fifth annual list of the Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters. The list spotlights 179 employers and four districts offering superior commuter benefits to more than 317,000 employees in the Bay Area.



As the San Francisco Bay Area Best Workplaces for Commuters Campaign Coordinator and sponsor of the Bay Area list announcement, the Northern California Association for Commuter Transportation (Northern CA Chapter ACT) will be hosting a special reception on October 18 at Yahoo!, 2821 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara. This event will include the formal presentation of the 2006 Bay Area Best Workplaces for Commuters List and recognition of the businesses on the list. The reception will start at 8:00 am followed by the recognition event at 8:30 am.



After the list announcement, the Northern CA Chapter ACT invites participants to stay for a special netconference titled "Striving to be the Best: Employer TDM Programs That Deliver Results to Employees and Stockholders". Why do employers go beyond what is expected of them when carrying out TDM programs for their employees? Participants will hear from three companies who differ in their core businesses but all value being the best. This extends to their approaches to providing TDM programs for their employees. The panel includes Jessica Barron, VPSI Project Manager with Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in Collegeville, PA; Matt Nichols, Principal Transportation Planner for the City of Berkeley, CA; and Danielle Bricker, TDM Coordinator at Yahoo! in Sunnyvale, CA. Participants will learn why these companies undertake these programs, how the programs were presented to management and what they think about it now. The companies will also discuss how they made TDM succeed and were further recognized as Best Workplaces for Commuters.

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**The Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Coalition**

Bay Area Air Quality Management District • Bay Area Council • 511 • 511 Contra Costa  
Northern California Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation  
Northern California Human Resource Association • Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance  
Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group • Solano Napa Commuter Info • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency





This year's Bay Area list includes Cambridge Systematics, the City and County of San Francisco, CH2M Hill, Integrated Science Solutions, Stanford University, and VISA. "Commuting can lead to stressed-out employees and a stressed environment," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "These leading companies are relieving that commuter strain, improving the quality of life for their employees, and the quality of the environment for their communities."

San Francisco is just one of nine communities across the country giving special recognition to local employers that qualify for the national list of Best Workplaces for Commuters. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that 1,885 employers providing top-notch commuter benefits to more than 3.5 million in 41 states and the District of Columbia are on the list. Furthermore, EPA is recognizing 133 FORTUNE 500 companies on the list including local employers Google, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Intel, Yahoo, and others.

Best Workplaces for Commuters participating employers must offer their employees superior commuting benefits such as employer provided transit passes, vanpool subsidies, bike commuter facilities, onsite day care, and telework programs. To qualify, organizations must provide:

- A central point of contact for information, who actively informs employees of commuter benefits available.
- Access to a regional or employer-provided Guaranteed/Emergency Ride Home program.
- At least one primary commuter benefit, which can include a monthly transit/vanpool pass subsidy, cash in lieu of free parking, or a significant telecommuting program.
- At least three supporting commuter benefits, such as carpool/vanpool incentives, lockers/showers for bikers or walkers, incentives for living near work, or onsite amenities such as day care or dry cleaning.

### What EPA's Best Workplaces for Commuters has Meant to the Bay Area

Below is some specific data measuring the impact of EPA's Best Workplaces for Commuters in the Bay Area. These numbers were generated using a calculator on the Best Workplaces for Commuters Web site ([www.bwc.gov/employ/quickcalc.htm](http://www.bwc.gov/employ/quickcalc.htm)).

### Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters

2006 Total Employers = 179 (+ 4 districts)  
 2006 Total Employees = 317,632  
 New 2006 Employers = 19  
 Avg. Gas Price (\$/gallon) = \$2.73<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Average gas price in California as of October 2, 2006  
 ([http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/pet/pet\\_pri\\_gnd\\_dcus\\_sca\\_w.htm](http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pri_gnd_dcus_sca_w.htm))

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Annually, the employers on the list of the Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters are collectively reducing:

- 153,630 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>
- 136 short tons VOC
- 290 short tons NO<sub>x</sub>
- 2,636 short tons CO
- 17,458,378 gallons of gas
- \$47,661,372 in gas
- 345,552,438 miles
- 8,262,851 vehicle round trips
- 28,796 cars off the road

Using the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction listed above, you can generate additional equivalencies using this Web site (<http://www.usctgateway.net/tool/>).

### About EPA's Best Workplaces for Commuters

Best Workplaces for Commuters is a free and voluntary government to business program that recognizes employers nationwide that offer a comprehensive package of superior commuter benefits. Participating organizations must meet a *National Standard of Excellence* established by EPA. Best Workplaces for Commuters improve employee job satisfaction and save money from reduced payroll taxes. Employees enjoy reduced stress and delays caused by driving alone to work and save money by using employer-provided commuter benefits and reducing use of personal vehicles. To learn more about the program, visit [www.bwc.gov](http://www.bwc.gov).

### About the Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters Coalition

The Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters Coalition is comprised of leading government and business organizations in the Bay Area working to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, cut global warming emissions, and make commuting less stressful and costly for employers and employees. Members include the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Bay Area Council, 511, 511 Contra Costa, Northern California Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation, Northern California Human Resources Association, Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance, Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group, Solano Napa Commuter Information and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For additional information about the Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters effort or the coalition, contact James Paxson at (925) 734-6500 or [james@hacienda.org](mailto:james@hacienda.org).

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