

A NEWS RELEASE FROM THE:

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Fuming Over Gas Prices? Online Tools Help Save Money, Time, and Pollution**

Santa Cruz, CA - County residents looking for effective ways to keep more gas money in their pockets can also add more time to their day. With local gas prices well over \$2.00 a gallon, residents may have more compelling reasons to carpool, vanpool, ride the bus, bicycle, walk, or telecommute.

Commute Solutions, a program of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, reminds commuters that sharing the drive to work not only helps cut commute costs, but can mean a smoother ride to work. Traveling in high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes over-the-hill avoids the stop-and-go traffic associated with peak hour commutes. "Idling in traffic twice a day wastes fuel and helps to create one of the main components of ground-level ozone - the summertime pollutant that causes breathing problems," said Cory Irimes, Commute Solutions Program Manager. County residents are encouraged to seek out carpools, vanpools, or ride the bus during the Bay area's "Spare the Air" days, and to relieve local traffic congestion.

Commute Solutions invites commuters to utilize its online tools to find carpool partners, receive free bike maps, read about bike parking and vanpool subsidy programs, and find links to local resources such as the Spring Bike to Work Day event. Go to [www.CommuteSolutions.org](http://www.CommuteSolutions.org) and plug in origin, destination, and commute times to instantly create a list of individuals who may be willing to carpool or vanpool to work. To plan a bus trip, go to [www.SCMTD.com](http://www.SCMTD.com). Also, residents should consider taking the bus or bike riding for leisure trips, such as going to the mall, movies, or dining out.

Those without internet access may contact Commute Solutions via the (831) 429-POOL phone line for assistance.

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SCCRTC COMMITTEES AND PROGRAMS: Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies, Rail/Trail Authority, Commute Solutions, Transportation Policy Workshop, Budget & Administration Personnel Committee, Bicycle Committee, Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

PLEASE NOTE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

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