

The Trouble with Cars & Trucks...

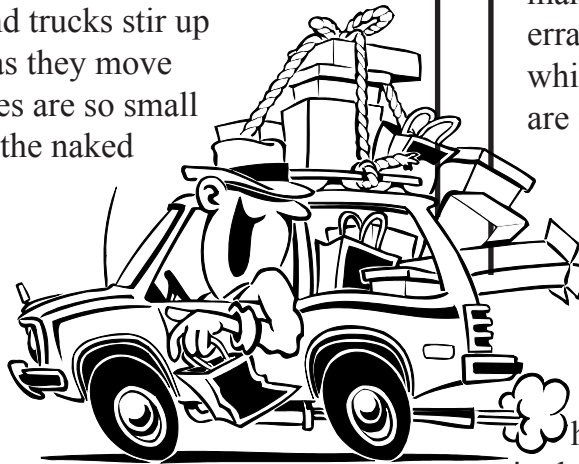
More than half of Spokane's air pollution is produced by the cars and trucks we drive!

What kinds of pollution do cars and trucks produce?

Carbon Monoxide: This is gas that is created during the combustion process that happens in vehicles engines. We can't see, taste, or smell carbon monoxide.

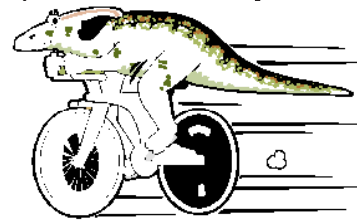
Fine Particulate: Automobiles also contribute to particulate pollution. Cars and trucks stir up particles of dust into the air as they move down the road. These particles are so small that you can't see them with the naked

eye.
Ground-level Ozone: Volatile organic compounds (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) are also released by vehicles. In the air they bake in the hot summer sun to create ground-level ozone, commonly called 'smog.'

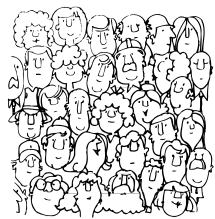


Some Solutions

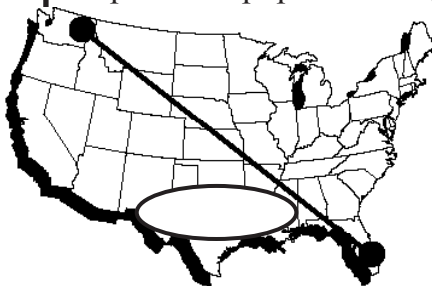
One way that people can reduce pollution is to make lists of errands and combine trips. About 75% of the automobile trips that people make are for personal errands, while 25% are for work.



The next time you are caught in traffic, look around you and see how many cars have only one person in them. Spokane can start to produce less pollution from automobiles, if people choose alternatives to driving alone. Riding the bus, carpooling, bicycling, walking, and skating are all cleaner choices.



**More People =
More Car Trips =
More Pollution**



Spokane's population is growing, and the people live here are driving more each year. Six million miles are driven each day in Spokane County (Source: SRTC). That's enough miles to travel from Spokane to Orlando, Florida 2,568 TIMES!



CAR FACTS:

Cars consume public spaces. 50-60% of the surface area in most cities is directly or indirectly dedicated to cars, streets, parking lots, etc.

Source: Alt-Trans

If every car carried two people instead of one, 40 million gallons of gas would be saved every day.

Source: PSCAA

Only 8% of the world's population own cars. In the United States, 89% of all households own one or more cars.

Source: PSCAA

It All Adds Up...

The average family in Washington State drives 24,232 miles each year. The average new car produces one pound of air pollution for every 25 miles it is driven. How many pounds of air pollution does the average family produce in one year from driving? _____

(hint: divide the number of miles driven by 25.)



What can you and your family do?

- Take the bus, walk, bike, skate, or carpool.
- Combine errands into fewer car trips.
- Adults can ride share to work or work at home.
- Keep your car tuned up and the tires properly inflated.
- Plant more trees. Trees help absorb pollution generated by cars and trucks.
- Drive slowly on dirt roads.
- Keep your driveway and sidewalks clean of dirt and debris.

Take ACTION: Form a CARPOOL!

Carpooling is easy and fun. It just means people sharing rides to get to the same place. Here are some steps to give it a try:

- Think of places your parents drive you regularly (school, swimming class, soccer practice, etc.).
- Make a list of friends who go to the same places and live in the same part of town that you do.
- Ask your parents and your friends' parents if they would be interested in joining a carpool.
- Create a rotating schedule of drivers and a list of the carpoolers, their addresses, and phone numbers. Make sure everyone in the carpool group receives this list.

Figure out how much air pollution your carpool will prevent:

1. Take the number of people in the carpool, and subtract one. This is the number of trips you're saving with your carpool!
2. Now estimate the number of miles it is from your neighborhood to the activity and back: _____.
3. Now multiply the two numbers above: _____. This is the number of miles you're saving with your carpool!
4. Divide the number in #3 by 25: _____. This is the number of POUNDS of POLLUTION your carpool is saving each time you use it.



More information about Spokane's air can be found at www.spokanecleanair.org.