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*CommuteInfo Connections - July 2015*

**Summertime, Air Quality Action Days & Sharing Rides**

As the temperature rises this summer, you might hear more reports of "Air Quality Action Days" on the news. But what can you do?

The [Southwest Pennsylvania Air Quality Partnership, Inc.](#) forecasts Air Quality Action Days. Using a [color-coded scale](#), the forecast informs people about the predicted ground level ozone and fine particulate matter levels and any precautions that need to be taken.

The Partnership encourages voluntary actions to reduce air pollution emissions, especially on Air Quality Actions Days:

- Limit your daytime driving whenever possible by taking the bus, carpooling, biking or walking.
- When you drive, try to minimize "cold starts" by combining trips and errands so your vehicle's catalytic converter remains warm. Most vehicle emissions occur in the first few minutes of engine operation, when the converter is cold and inefficient.
- Reduce unnecessary engine idling by parking your car and walking into a building rather than using the drive-through.
- Refuel after dark to prevent some of the resulting gasoline vapors from becoming smog. Avoid spilling gasoline, and stop when the pump shuts off automatically.
- Keep your car tuned-up. The emissions from one poorly maintained car equal that from 25 properly-functioning cars!

Want to learn more? Visit the Southwest Pennsylvania Air Quality Partnership's [website](#). Or [sign up to receive](#) the Environmental Protection Agency's daily weather and air quality forecast for your area.



## Trying Transit Across the Region



Have you been considering making the switch to using transit for your commute? If you're nervous about giving transit a try, considering using it for a special event this summer! Build up your commuting confidence *before* taking transit to work! Try taking transit to a Pirates game or maybe to a concert in a nearby park.

You may be surprised to learn that most of the counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania offer transit service. Check out the different transit options in the 10 counties [here](#) or call CommuteInfo at 1-888-819-6110. We'll help guide you to your local transit operator!

## Outreach & Events

If you are interested in having CommuteInfo at your community/employee event or meeting, or if you would like additional information, please contact us at [commuteinfo@spcregion.org](mailto:commuteinfo@spcregion.org).



*Operating a customer-focused full service commuting options resource center, running the region's vanpool and carpool programs, and facilitating the forum for coordinating regional ridesharing efforts--SPC's CommuteInfo Program is the regional one stop shop for ridesharing services.*



The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) hereby gives public notice that it is the policy of the Commission to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Title VI and other related statutes require that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which SPC receives federal financial assistance. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by SPC under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with the Commission. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with SPC's Title VI Coordinator within one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form, please see our website at: [www.spcregion.org](http://www.spcregion.org) or call 412-391-5590.