

## FACT SHEET

09/09/14



- Contact: Rosemary Mascali, Co-Chair Car Free Day LI, (516) 242-8121 (mobile), [rmascali@transitsolutions.org](mailto:rmascali@transitsolutions.org)
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Car Free Day Long Island will be September 22, 2014 where Long Island workers and residents are encouraged to pledge to be car free or car-lite for the day by riding a train, bus, bicycle, carpool, subway, walk or just drive less that day. To date over 1,500 Long Island residents and workers have already pledged.
- World Car Free Day is an event celebrated on September 22 every year in over 1500 cities in 40 countries. It was first observed on Long Island in 2013. Car Free Day is celebrated in different ways but with the common goal of taking cars off the road to reduce traffic congestion, reduce harmful emissions, and conserve energy.
- ***For the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Car Free Day Long Island in 2013, over 2500 Long Islanders pledged to be car free or car-lite, resulting in the avoidance of over 65,000 miles of driving and 33 tons of CO2 emissions.***
- In anticipation of Car Free Day, an island-wide ***Car Free Day LI Rally*** will be held at Farmingdale State College on Thursday, September 18, 2014, 2-5pm, to encourage Long Islanders to pledge to be car free or car-lite on Car Free Day and help educate the public on the impact of single occupancy vehicles on Long Island and more sustainable travel choices such as using mass transit, carpooling, biking, walking, telecommuting.
- Car Free Day Long Island is organized by a broad-based coalition of Long Island leaders. The effort is being led by Transit Solutions and 511NYRideshare, in conjunction with program partners LIRR, NICE Bus, Suffolk County Transit.
- Other members of the Car Free Day LI Planning Committee include representatives from North Shore-LIJ Health System, Simon Property Group, Melville Chamber of Commerce, Nassau County, Suffolk County, Town of North Hempstead, Vision Long Island, Stony Brook University, Farmingdale State College, Suffolk Bike Riders Association, Sustainable Long Island, US Green Building Council – LI Chapter, LI Sierra Club, the Seatuck Environmental Association, WALK 97.5 and the Girl Scouts of Nassau County.

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- Over 75 Long Island organizations are participating in promoting the event. A complete list of participating organizations can be found at the Car Free Day LI website at [www.carfreedayli.com/sponsors](http://www.carfreedayli.com/sponsors).
- Those who pledge are also eligible to win raffle prizes donated by various sponsors including bicycles, giftcards and theatre tickets. A complete list of raffle prizes can be found at the Car Free Day LI website at <http://carfreedayli.com/raffles-promotions/>

### ***Environmental and Health Impact of Single Occupancy Vehicles***

- Over 30% of greenhouse gas emissions generated on Long Island are attributable to transportation, according to 2013 Cleaner Greener Long Island Regional Sustainability Plan.
- Air quality is a major concern in our area. In fact, the Tri-State region, including Long Island, does not meet EPA air quality standards. Suffolk County has the worst ozone pollution in New York State. (The ozone levels in Nassau County are unknown because ozone monitors are not located in Nassau County.) <http://www.stateoftheair.org/2013/states/new-york/> .
- Ozone pollution poses multiple, serious threats to health. <http://www.stateoftheair.org/2013/health-risks/health-risks-ozone.html>
- Automobile use is one factor that contributes to high ozone levels. According to recent census data, nearly 70% of Nassau County and 80% of Suffolk County residents drive to work alone.