

## FACT SHEET

09/23/16



- Contact: Rosemary Mascali, Co-Chair Car Free Day LI, (516) 242-8121 (mobile), [rmascali@transitsolutions.org](mailto:rmascali@transitsolutions.org)
- The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Free Day Long Island was held September 22, 2016 where Long Island workers and residents were encouraged to pledge to be car free or car-lite for the day by riding a train, bus, bicycle, carpool, subway, telecommute, walk or just drive less that day.
- ***In 2016, 4,111 Long Islanders pledged to be car free or car-lite, an increase of almost 40% over 2015, resulting in the avoidance of 84,000 miles of driving and 42 tons of CO2 emissions.***
- In 2016, World Car Free Day was celebrated in over 2,400 cities in 51 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.
- 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 Northwell Health, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Simon Malls, Melville Chamber of Commerce, Nassau County, Suffolk County, Town of North Hempstead, Town of Huntington, Vision Long Island, Stony Brook University, Farmingdale State College, Suffolk County Community College, Suffolk Bike Riders Association, Vision Long Island, Sustainable Long Island, US Green Building Council – LI Chapter, LI Sierra Club, Connoisseur Media and CDC Long Island.
- In 2016, over 75 Long Island organizations participated 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 pledged were also eligible to win raffle prizes donated by various sponsors including bicycles, giftcards and theater tickets. A complete list of raffle prizes can be found at the Car Free Day LI website at <http://carfreedayli.com/raffles-promotions/>

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### ***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.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/city-rankings/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.