

FACT SHEET

09/17/18



- Contact: Rosemary Mascali, Co-Chair Car Free Day LI, (516) 242-8121 (mobile), rmascali@transitsolutions.org
- The 6th Annual Car Free Day Long Island will be held September 21, 2018 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.
- To date, almost 5,000 Long Islanders have already taken the pledge. In 2017, 6,808 Long Islanders pledged to be car free or car-lite, an increase of 65% over 2016, resulting in the avoidance of 134,000 miles of driving and 67 tons of CO2 emissions.
- In 2017, World Car Free Day was celebrated in over 2,500 cities in 50 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 Huntington, Vision Long Island, Stony Brook University, Farmingdale State College, Suffolk County Community College, Suffolk Bike Riders Association, US Green Building Council – LI Chapter and Connoisseur Media.
- Over 80 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.
- Those who pledged are 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/>
- Long Island Mobility Week (September 16-22) is a series of activities and events by Long Island municipalities and organizations informing about sustainable transportation <http://carfreedayli.com/files/li-mobility-week-2018.pdf> . Organized by the Sustainable



Transportation Committee of the US Green Building Council in partnership with Car Free Day Long Island, Mobility Week is an opportunity to take stock of current mobility challenges and progress toward more sustainable options.

- This year, nine events are planned, covering a broad range of sustainable transportation options including electric vehicles, micro transit, rider information and fare apps, bike share, transit-oriented development and walkability. Details about each LI Mobility Week event can be found on the USGBC-LI website: <http://usgbc-li.org/event/calendar>.

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. https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2018-04/CGLI_Plan_FINAL_1.pdf
- 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. Ozone pollution poses multiple, serious threats to health. According to the American Lung Association, Suffolk County air quality is rated F for ozone levels, among the worst 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/health-risks/>
<http://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/city-rankings/states/new-york/#hide-tabs-1>
<http://www.lung.org/assets/documents/healthy-air/state-of-the-air/sota-2018-full.pdf>
- 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.