

# Welcome to the **CommuterChoice Challenge Webinar**

## **We'll cover**

- how Maryland employers can encourage sustainable transportation through Commuter Choice Programs;
- how to join the Maryland Green Registry, and
- how to participate in the Maryland Green Registry Commuter Choice Challenge

Sponsored by:





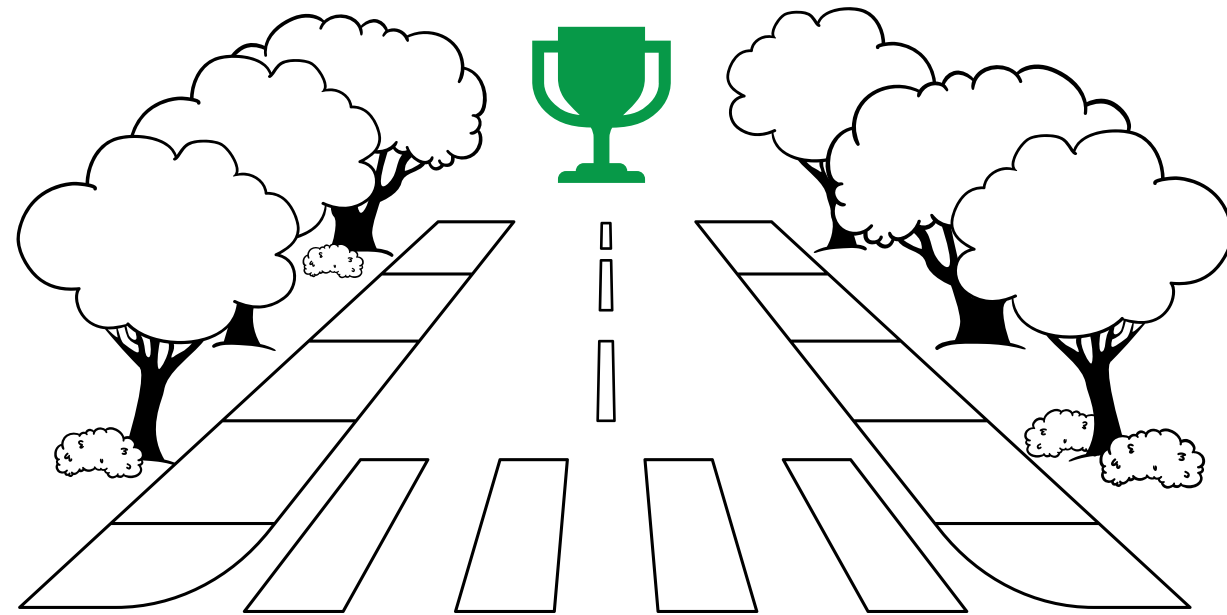
# Winning the Green Registry Commuter Choice Challenge

Stacey King, Commuter Choice Maryland | May 10, 2023



# Roadmap to Commuter Choice Victory

- Commuter Choice Maryland (re)introduction
- Ways to win the Commuter Choice Challenge
  - Easiest
  - Easier
  - Easy(ish)
- Resources to help you reach your organization's goals



# (re)Introducing Commuter Choice Maryland

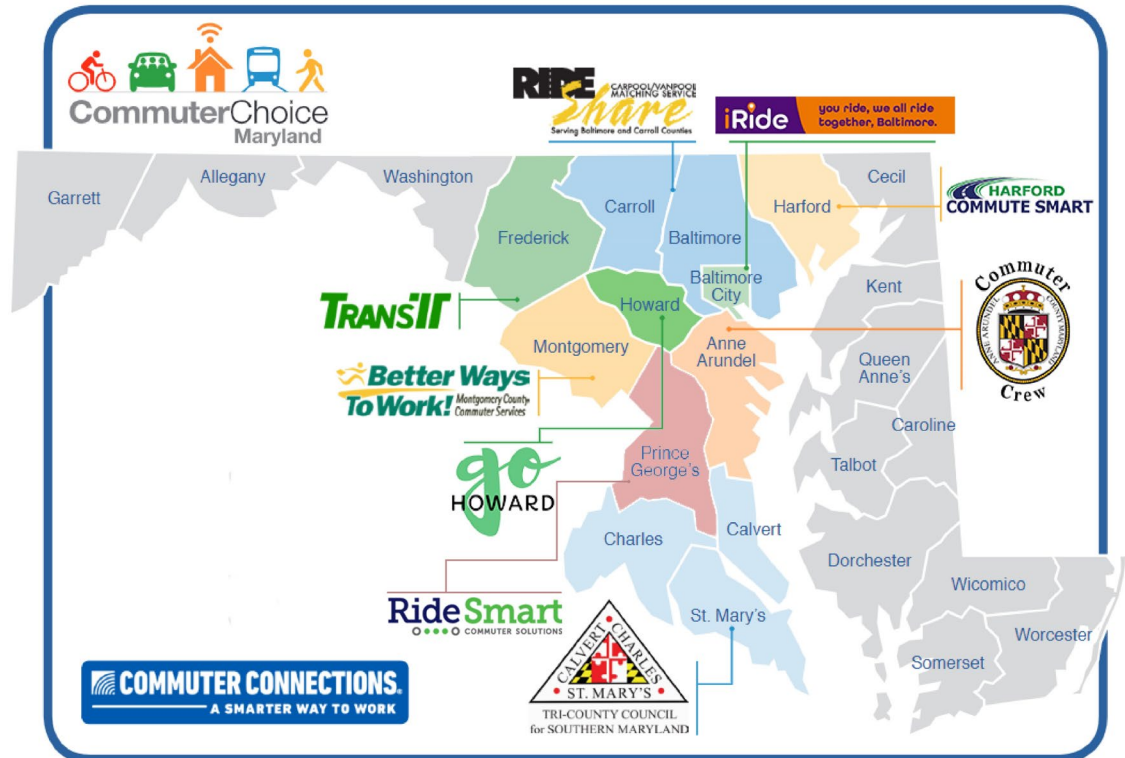
## Who we are

- A free program of the Maryland Department of Transportation.

## What we do

- Provide complimentary consultations to employers to start or enhance their commuter benefits programs.
- Help employees find easy, affordable, and sustainable commute options.
- Administer statewide commuting incentives.
- Share information.

## And 15+ Local Specialists



# Why We Do What We Do

## Average Cost-per-Hire for Companies Is \$4,129, SHRM Survey Finds

42 days is the average time it takes to fill an open position

August 3, 2016

The Washington Post  
Democracy Dies in Darkness

TRANSPORTATION

### Offices have reopened. Persuading commuters to fill them isn't so simple.

D.C.-area office occupancy rates and transit ridership remain far below pre-pandemic levels as many workers stay home

By Katherine Shaver and Justin George  
September 3, 2022 at 6:00 a.m. EDT

MANAGEMENT

### MD: Pandemic has altered Baltimore-area commuting patterns. But for how long?

Baltimore-area workers shaved 35 hours off their average annual commuting time in 2021 compared with the year before the coronavirus pandemic.

By Lorraine Mirabella  
Source Baltimore Sun (TNS)

Dec. 29, 2022



HYBRID WORK SCHEDULES COULD CHANGE PARKING, COMMUTING, MASS TRANSIT

### Hybrid work schedules could change parking, commuting, mass transit

JUNE 11, 2021



Anyone ever quit their job because the commute took too much time in Boston? Posted this on a runners' group earlier (by mistake) but who knows

r/careerguidance · Posted by u/Kaylacathleen 1 month ago

Should I quit my job due to a long commute?

Advice

# Why We Do What We Do

HYBRID WORK SCHEDULES COULD CHANGE PARKING, COMMUTING, MASS TRANSIT

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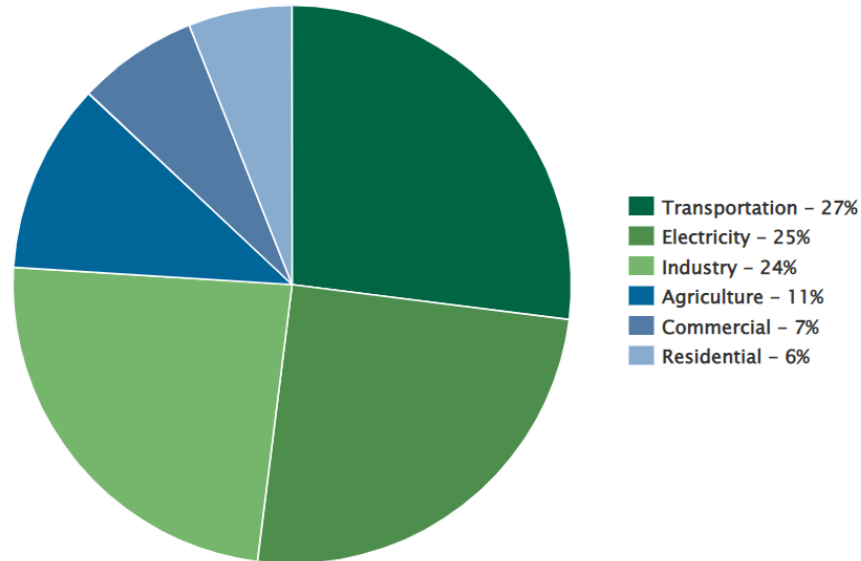
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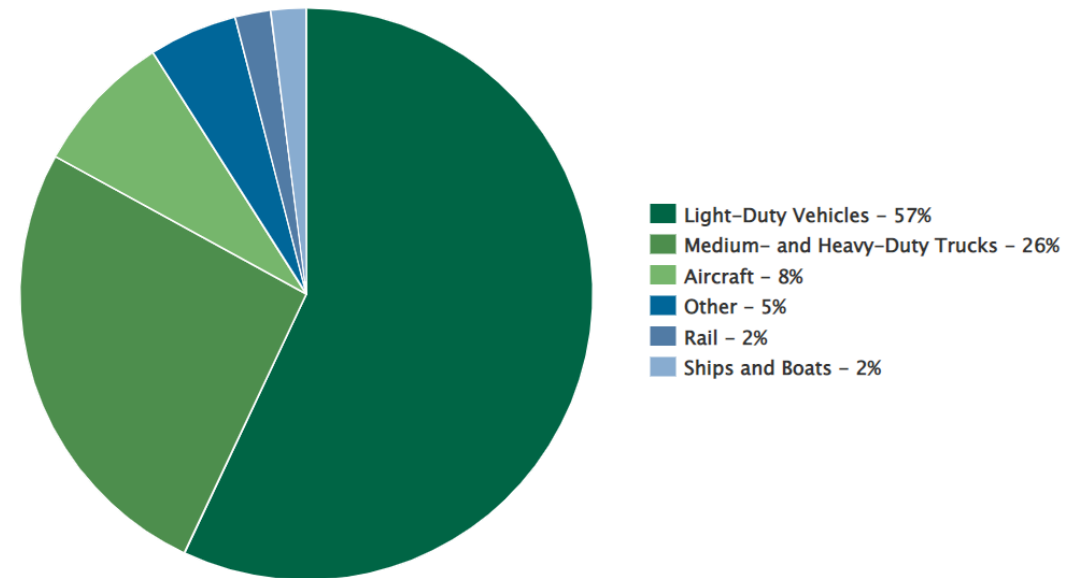
By Lovaina Mirabella  
Source: Baltimore Sun (TNS)

Dec. 29, 2022

2020 U.S. GHG Emissions by Sector



2020 U.S. Transportation Sector GHG Emissions by Source



Source: EPA's Fast Facts on Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions. [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

# What is the Commuter Choice Challenge?

It's time to take the  
**CommuterChoice Challenge!**

Employee incentive programs have never been stronger  
for greener, cost-saving commutes.

Enter by June 1, 2023

Sponsored by:



- Take at least one out of 16 possible steps to be entered in the Commuter Choice Challenge prize drawing.
- Taking two to five steps doubles your entry in the prize drawing, and taking six or more steps gives you three entries in the prize drawing.
- Prizes include the choice of cycling gear, work-from-home accessories, and the assistance of Commuter Choice program in bolstering employee education.
- To enter, visit this page, and check the boxes on the form:  
[www.green.Maryland.gov](http://www.green.Maryland.gov) and go to Contests



Enter by June 1, 2023

# Checking the Boxes to Win the Challenge

## Easy(ish)

Provide employee shuttles

Locate your business near public transit

Offer commuter subsidies

Claim the MD Commuter Tax Credit

Install showers for cyclists/walkers

## Easier

Preferential carpool/vanpool parking

Implement telework and/or compressed workweek

Promote Guaranteed Ride Home OR start your own

Install bike racks or lockers

## Easiest

Promote commute programs, bike/scooter share, and incenTrip

Become an Employer Partner

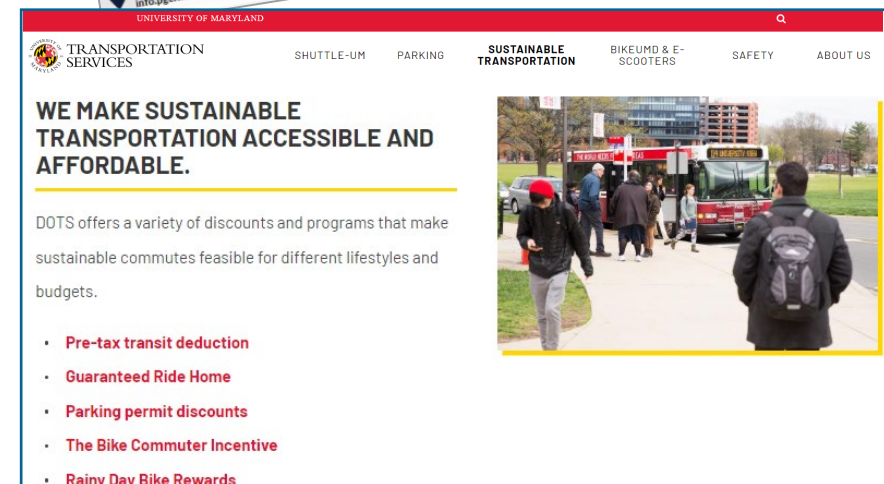
Facilitate carpool/vanpool matching

Provide tax-free commuter benefits



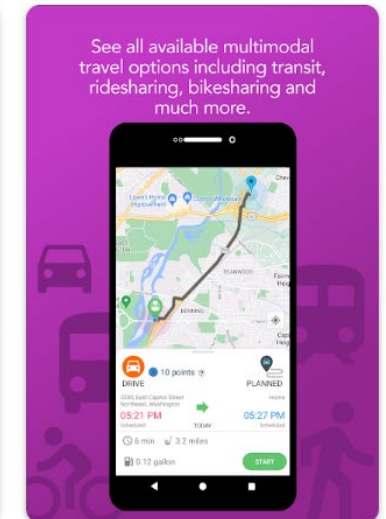
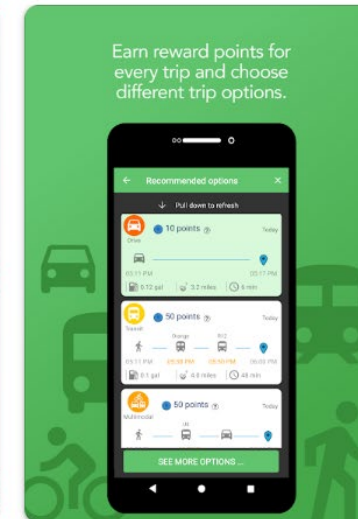
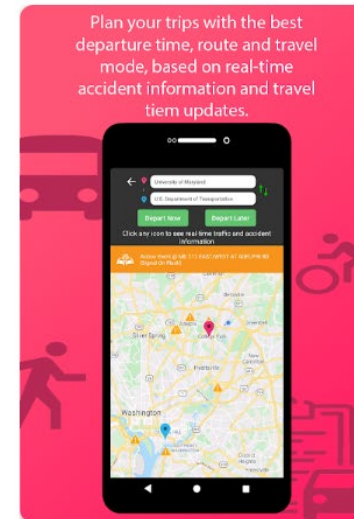
# Checking the Easiest Boxes

- ❑ Promote employee commute programs and alternative transportation options.
- ❑ Promote incenTrip.
- ❑ Promote bikeshare/scootershare options.
- ❑ Facilitate carpool/vanpool matching.
- ❑ Become an Employer Partner.
- ❑ Provide tax-free commuter benefits covered by the IRS Federal Transportation Fringe Benefits.



# Checking the Easiest Boxes

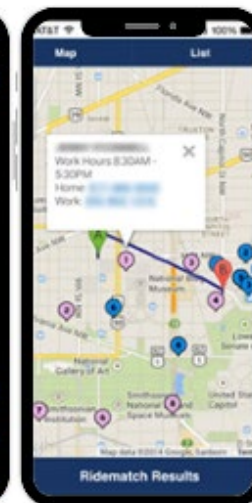
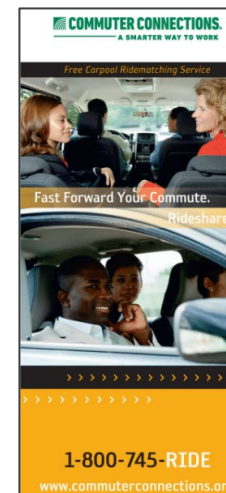
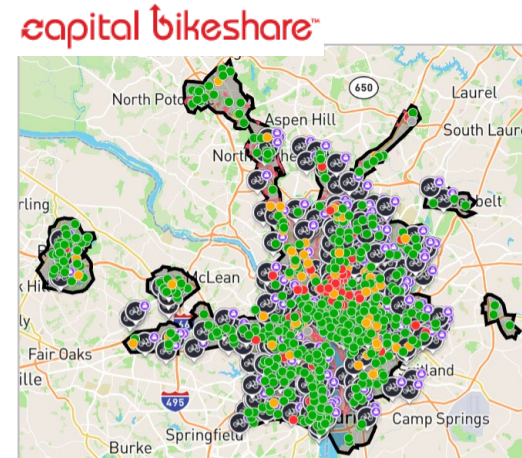
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[www.mdot.Maryland.gov/incentrip](http://www.mdot.Maryland.gov/incentrip)

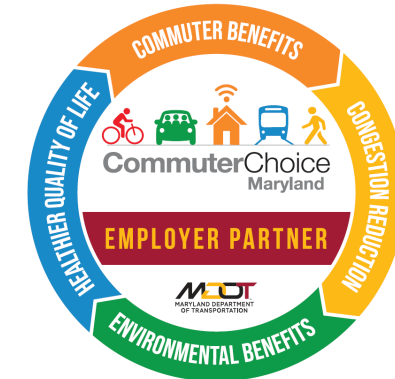
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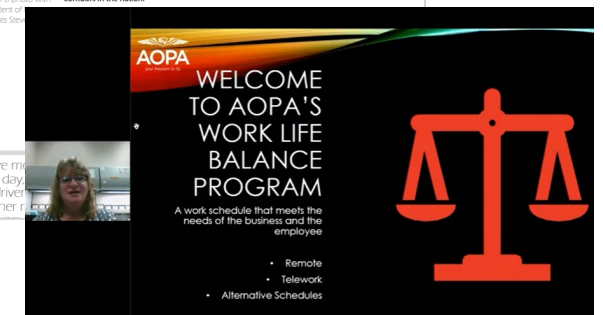
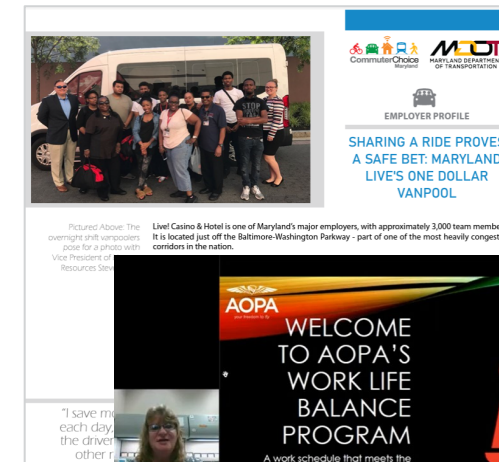


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[mdot.maryland.gov/employerpartner](https://mdot.maryland.gov/employerpartner)  
[surveymonkey.com/r/CCMEPP2023](https://surveymonkey.com/r/CCMEPP2023)



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Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Publication 15-B**  
Cat. No. 29744N

**Employer's Tax Guide to Fringe Benefits**

For use in **2022**

**Contents**

What's New	1
Reminders	2
Introduction	2
1. Fringe Benefit Overview	3
2. Fringe Benefit Exclusion Rules	5
Accident and Health Benefits	5
Achievement Awards	8
Adoption Assistance	8
Athletic Facilities	9
De Minimis (Minimal) Benefits	9
Dependent Care Assistance	10
Educational Assistance	10
Employee Discounts	11
Employee Stock Options	12
Employer-Provided Cell Phones	13
Group-Term Life Insurance Coverage	13
Health Savings Accounts	18
Lodging on Your Business Premises	17
Meals	17
No-Additional-Cost Services	19
Retirement Planning Services	20
Transportation (Commuting) Benefits	20
Tuition Reduction	22
Working Condition Benefits	22
3. Fringe Benefit Valuation Rules	25
General Valuation Rule	25
Cents-Per-Mile Rule	25
Commuting Rule	28
Lease Value Rule	27
Unsafe Conditions Commuting Rule	29
4. Rules for Withholding, Depositing, and Reporting	29
How To Get Tax Help	31
Index	34

**Future Developments**

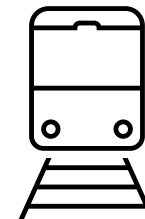
For the latest information about developments related to Pub. 15-B, such as legislation enacted after it was published, go to [IRS.gov/15B](https://www.irs.gov). For the latest guidance and information about COVID-19 tax relief, go to [IRS.gov/ coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/ coronavirus).

**What's New**

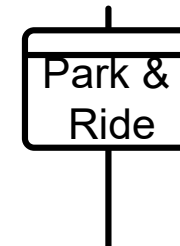
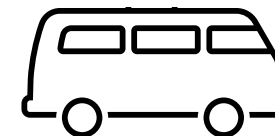
**Cents-per-mile rule.** The business mileage rate for 2022 is 58.5 cents per mile. You may use this rate to reimburse an employee for business use of a personal vehicle, and

Get forms and other information faster and easier at:  
 • [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) (English)  
 • [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) (Spanish)  
 • [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) (Chinese)  
 • [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) (Korean)  
 • [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) (Japanese)  
 • [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) (Vietnamese)  
 • [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) (Filipino)

Jan 31, 2022



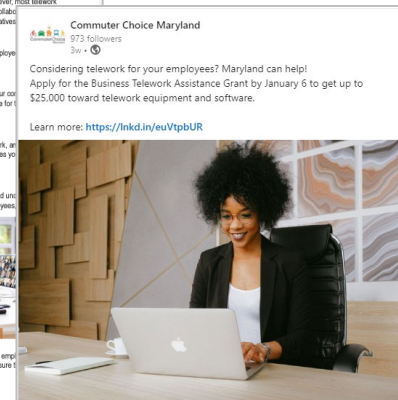
**Transit/Vanpool**  
**\$300/month**



**Qualified Parking**  
**\$300/month**

# Checking the Easier Boxes

- ❑ Implement telework and/or compressed workweek.
- ❑ Promote Guaranteed Ride Home OR start your own if you're not in the Commuter Connections service area.
- ❑ Provide preferential carpool/vanpool parking.
- ❑ Install bike racks or lockers.
- ❑ Offer commuter subsidies.
- ❑ Claim the MD Commuter Tax Credit.



**FREE RIDE GUARANTEED!**

**GET A FREE GUARANTEED RIDE HOME, EVEN IF YOU'RE COMMUTING JUST A FEW TIMES A WEEK.**

- UNEXPECTED EMERGENCIES
- UNSCHEDULED OVERTIME

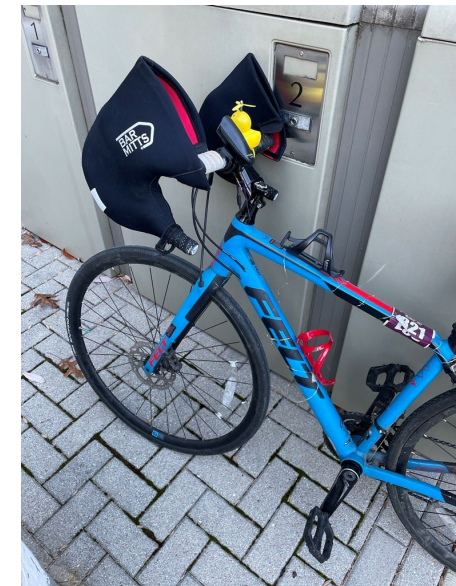
**SIGN UP TODAY FOR FREE!**

**COMMUTER CONNECTIONS.**  
A SMARTER WAY TO WORK

Some restrictions apply.

# Checking the Easier Boxes

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Employers may claim 50% of the cost of employee subsidies for:

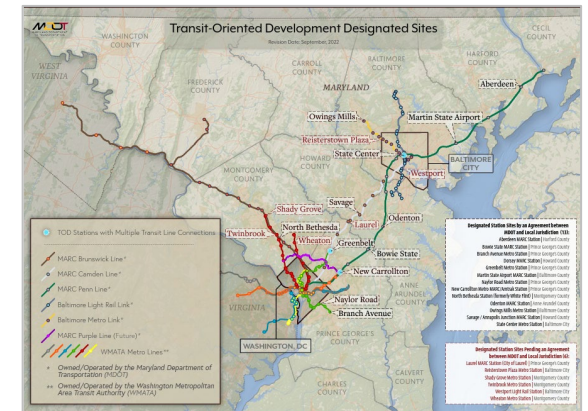
- **Transit\***
  - **Vanpool\***
  - **Parking cash-out**
  - **GRH**
  - **Carpool**
  - **Bike/Walk/Scoot**
  - **Telework**
  - **Last Mile Multimodal**
- New!**

\*also covered by the Federal Transportation Fringe Benefit



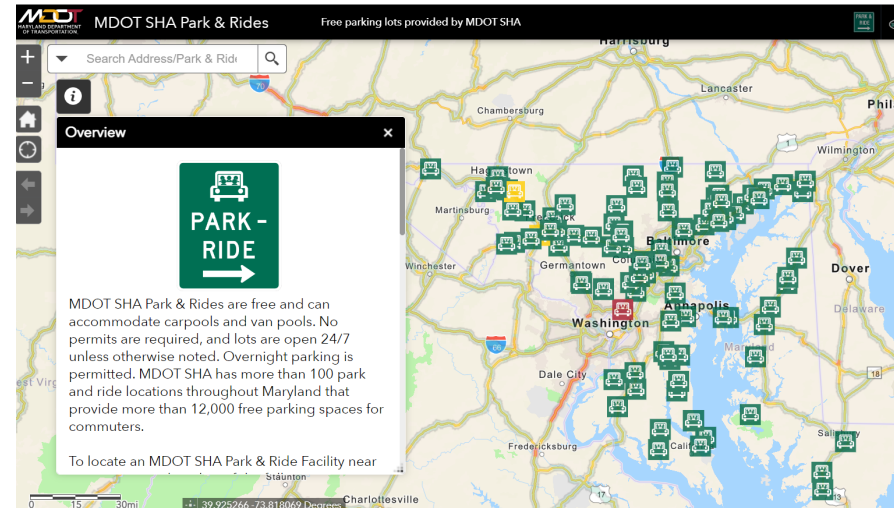
# Checking the Easy(ish) Boxes

- ❑ Install showers for cyclists and walkers.
- ❑ Provide employee commuter shuttles.
- ❑ Locate your business near public transit.



# Free Resources and Support

[www.commuterchoicemaryland.com](http://www.commuterchoicemaryland.com)



## Commuter Choice Maryland Employer Partner Program

The Commuter Choice Maryland Employer Partner Program recognizes Maryland employers and organizations for their leadership in offering transportation benefits and creative commuting incentives to their employees. Employer Partners also receive support in their efforts to build or expand commuter benefits programs. These leadership efforts help Maryland to reduce congestion, conserve energy, protect the environment and improve the quality of life of all Marylanders.

Best of all, the Employer Partner Program is free! What will you gain by joining? Click the button below to get started.

[Become a Commuter Choice Employer Partner Today](#)

## Bike To Work Day

Employer Resources | Event Info | First Time Rider Info | Event Sponsors | Register

## Bike to Work Week

Visit the Baltimore Metro Council Website

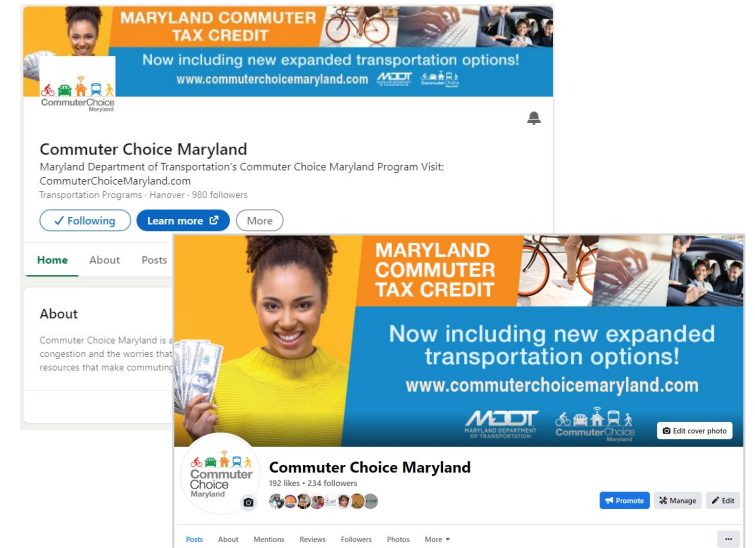
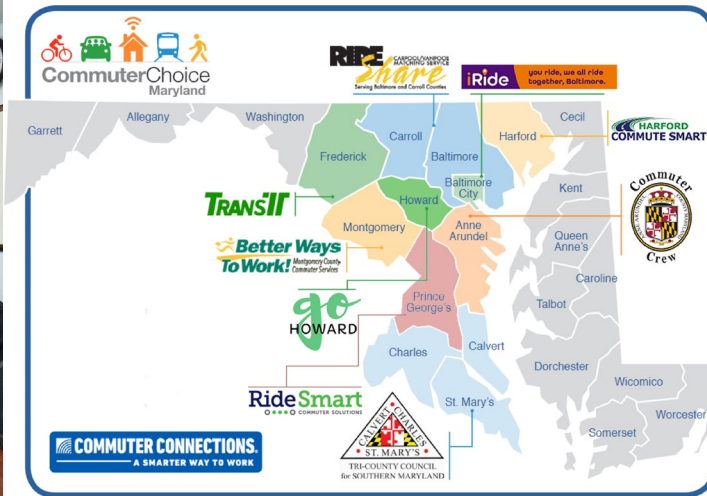
Monday, May 15 - Sunday, May 21

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



# We're On Your Commute Team!

**Stacey King**  
**Commuter Choice Maryland**  
**sking8@mdot.maryland.gov**  
**commuterchoice@mdot.maryland.gov**  
**410-865-1100**



# What is the Maryland Green Registry?



## Maryland Green Registry

- A free and voluntary state program launched in 2009 to promote and recognize sustainable practices at organizations across the state
- A membership of more than 600 businesses and organizations including schools, universities, all levels of government, nonprofits, and businesses ranging from one-person operations to the largest employers in the state.
- A public forum for sharing practical and proven sustainable practices and results through online member profiles.



# Membership Benefits

- Increased visibility of your business through an online member profile.
- Improved search engine optimization due to .gov URL
- Use of the Maryland Green Registry logo and window decal
- Early notice on free technical assistance programs, news, events, and webinars
- Access to Members Only LinkedIn Group
- Annual Contests
- Member Spotlights on social media
- Annual Maryland Green Registry Sustainability Leadership Awards and Networking Event

# How to Join

Download the application at [www.green.maryland.gov](http://www.green.maryland.gov)

Members must:

1. Be located in Maryland,
2. Share information on at least **five** environmental practices,
3. Provide a measurable result for at least **one** of these practices,
4. Strive to continually improve your environmental performance, and
5. Update your profile whenever you have new practices and results to share, but no less frequently than every **three** years.

# Application Form

## MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

- Environmental Policy Statement
- Environmental Team
- Annual Environmental Goals
- Environmentally Preferable Products and Services
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects
- Independently-Audited Environmental Management System

## WASTE

- Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse
- Recycling
- Composting
- Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction

## ENERGY

- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy

## TRANSPORTATION

- Employee Commute**
- Efficient Business Travel
- Fleet Vehicles

## WATER

- Water Conservation
- Stormwater Management and Site Design

## GREEN BUILDING

- Rating System (LEED, Green Globes or IgCC)

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Environmental certification programs, awards, and other activities

# Online Member Profile



## Baltimore Convention Center

**Baltimore Convention Center**  
 1 West Pratt St.  
 Baltimore, MD 21201  
 410-649-7000  
[www.bccenter.org](http://www.bccenter.org)  
 Member since April 2019

### Management and Leadership

#### Environmental Policy Statement

[https://d38trduhctod3.cloudfront.net/files.ashx?t=fq&rid=BaltimoreCC&f=bcc\\_green\\_initiatives.pdf](https://d38trduhctod3.cloudfront.net/files.ashx?t=fq&rid=BaltimoreCC&f=bcc_green_initiatives.pdf)

#### Environmental Team

The Convention Center's Director of Operations takes the lead role on many sustainability initiatives. However, other departments such as Facilities and Engineering have a large role in helping with initiatives such as energy efficiency and water conservation, while the Sales and Services team share our story with clients to gain the support and buy-in of their staff, exhibitors, service providers, and attendees towards our sustainability mission and goals.

Our efforts are enhanced through the commitment of our in-house service partners like Sodexo Live! who manage the food and beverage related sustainability efforts.

#### Annual Environmental Goals

Our annual goal is to maintain an annual diversion rate of at least 35%.

#### Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

We currently utilize over 85% Green Seal certified cleaning products. All trash bags contain post-consumer grade materials. We purchase recycled-content paper towels and toilet paper.

We aim to purchase our food and beverage locally, when possible, by utilizing a vendor that matches our purchasing needs with nearby sources and small businesses. We use disposable foodservice items made from bio-based, renewable materials (corn, bamboo, etc.) and 90%+ of our concession disposable are fully compostable.

#### Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

In September 2022 the Baltimore Convention Center installed two beehives, with over 70,000 bees, on its roof with the help of urban beekeeping company, [Abeville](#). Our bees travel within 2-3 miles of their hives to pollinate plants gather resources for their honey. With the hives, the Center hopes to educate our staff and visitors on the importance of this species and all pollinators.

We typically participate in 2-3 service projects each year. In October 2022, a team of the Center's staff volunteered at Mayor Brandon Scott's Fall Cleanup event. Staff members worked alongside residents, DPW waste workers, and cleaning crews in picking up debris from local Baltimore Communities. This service day helped promote a cleaner environment and brought awareness of the negative impact littering has in the community.

With the support of clients, we gain approval to collect materials to supply special projects and non-profit organizations in our local community. In coordination with our Mid-Atlantic Nursery Tradeshow in January 2023, we provided a team to work overnight collecting live trees and plants that are destined for the landfill. 68 trees and 142 saplings and shrubs, valued at over \$17,000, were salvaged and provided to organizations like the [Baltimore Tree Trust](#) and Midtown Baltimore, to be planted in the community.

### Waste

#### Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

We donate a wide variety of goods and materials to local nonprofit organizations. In 2022 we donated roughly 31 tons of materials to organizations such as Second Chance, South Baltimore Station, Baltimore Outreach, Bea Gaddy Center, Catholic Charities, Helping Up Mission, Baltimore Tree Trust, Midtown Baltimore, Baltimore ToolBank and others. Materials included items such as hand sanitizer, bags, masks, pencils, school supplies, clothing, and books.

Through the use of the [MealConnect](#) app we were able to donate over 6,500 pounds of food to charitable organizations like Helping Up Mission.

In May 2018, we began donating food scraps to a local farm, Carriage House Farms, for pig feed. In 2022 we donated over 6.5 tons of organic food scraps for feed.

#### Recycling

- Single-Stream recycling receptacles are available in all meeting spaces and public lobbies.
- When applicable, we send waste to be separated out and recycled through L&J Waste Recycling. Through L&J, and other sources, we recycled roughly 34 tons of C&D material.
- We have a cardboard baler on site. In 2022 we baled and recycled over 29 tons of cardboard.
- We also have a Pallet recycling program that removes all pallets regardless of size or material and either resells them or recycles them. In 2022 we recycled or provided for reuse, a total of 7.75 tons of pallets.
- In 2022 we recycled over 29 tons of scrap metal.
- In our kitchen, we recycle grease with Valley Proteins and utilize [Filtro-Fry](#) for the micro-filtration of cooking oils. In 2022, FiltroFry saved over 500 pounds of oil.

#### Composting

We use [Waste Neutral](#) to collect food scraps for composting. In 2022, we composted over 12,000 pounds of food scraps.

### Energy

#### Energy Efficiency

- To date, we have replaced 3,840 CFL bulbs with LED bulbs in all the meeting rooms, ballrooms, and most lobby and perfection space.
- We have also replaced 30 exterior lights from older induction bulb wall packs to LED on the east building.
- In the Charles Lobby service drive, we replaced 22 induction bulb recessed lights with LED lights.
- We have also changed out approximately 1500 T8 fluorescent bulbs with LEDs.
- In 2019, we replaced 88 fixtures that were a combination of high-pressure sodium and HID lighting fixtures with LED fixtures.

### Transportation

#### Employee Commute/Customer Travel

For a number of departments, we offer the ability for 'telework days' which limits their need to travel into work.

We also have multiple bicycle racks located at our facility.

### Water

#### Water Conservation

- low flow restrictors on faucets and showerheads
- low flow toilets (1.6 gpf or less)
- low flow urinals (1 gpf or less)
- automatic or sensed faucets or toilets in public restrooms
- high efficiency [Energy-Star](#) rated dishwashers

### Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

#### Completed venue certification for the APEX/ASTM Green Meeting Standard

As of the start of 2018, smoking on the loading docks is no longer permitted. There is a smoking area located near the loading docks that employees are able to use. This change will promote a cleaner and healthier working area for employees working in these areas. In addition, information and resources will be provided in these areas to assist staff with smoking cessation.



[View our video](#)

Profile Updated February 2023





# Sustainability Leadership Awards



MARYLAND GREEN REGISTRY  
**BALTIMORE COMMUNITY TOOLBANK**  
SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER  
**2021**



The Baltimore Community ToolBank serves community-based organizations by providing tools, equipment, and expertise.

#### Environmental Achievements:

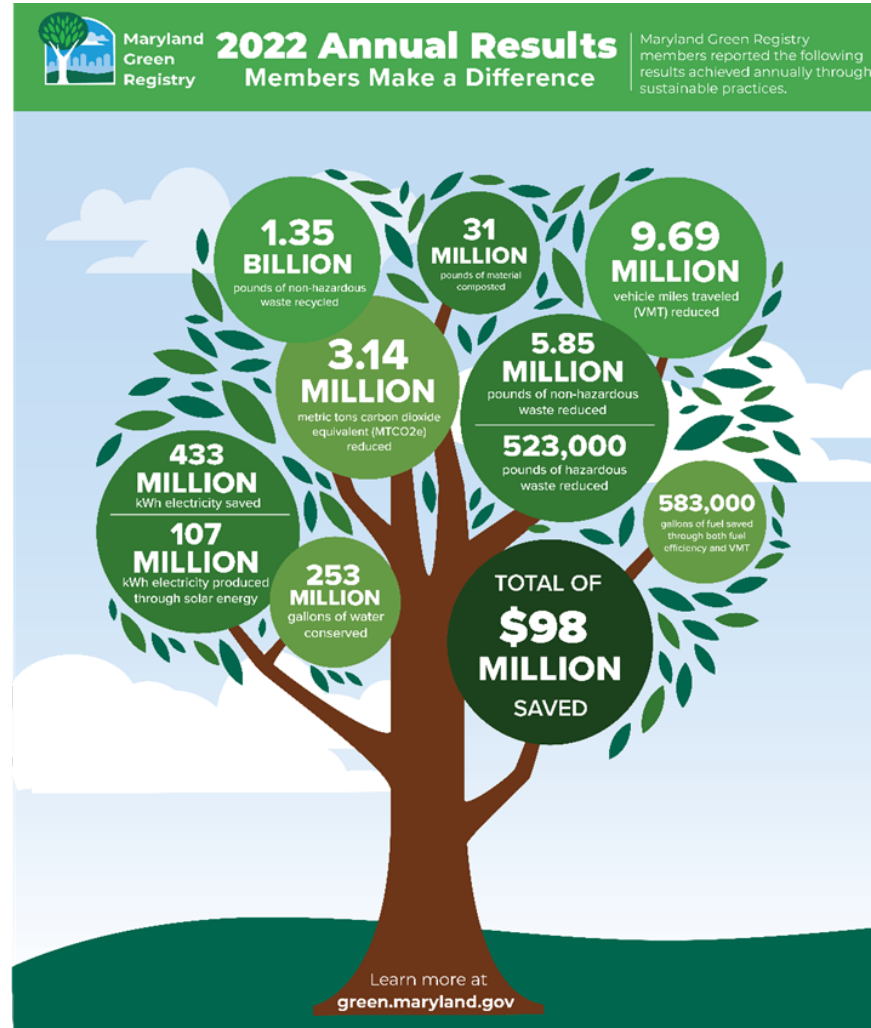
- Collects more than 1 million gallons of rainfall on the property annually and repurposes it for tool washing.
- Maintains two rain gardens that minimize runoff and provide habitat for native flora and pollinators.
- Promotes waste reduction and reuse through tool lending program.
- Reduced onsite energy consumption by 40%.
- Engages students and local businesses on stormwater management in an urban setting by encouraging individual actions to control runoff and reduce litter.



MARYLAND GREEN REGISTRY  
**SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE**  
**2023**



# Annual Results



# Contact Information

Laura Armstrong

Director, Sustainability Program and Maryland Green Registry

Maryland Department of the Environment

1800 Washington Blvd.

Baltimore, MD 21232

[Laura.Armstrong@Maryland.gov](mailto:Laura.Armstrong@Maryland.gov)

[Green.Registry@Maryland.gov](mailto:Green.Registry@Maryland.gov)

410-537-4119



# Useful Links

- Maryland Green Registry: [www.green.Maryland.gov](http://www.green.Maryland.gov)
- MDE Green Registry Commuter Choice Challenge: <https://mde.maryland.gov/MarylandGreen/Pages/AnnualContests.aspx>
- Commuter Choice Maryland: [www.commuterchoicemaryland.com](http://www.commuterchoicemaryland.com)
  - Commuter Tax Credit: [www.mdot.Maryland.gov/mdcommutertaxcredit](http://www.mdot.Maryland.gov/mdcommutertaxcredit)
  - Employer Partner Program: [www.mdot.Maryland.gov/employerpartner](http://www.mdot.Maryland.gov/employerpartner)
  - incenTrip: [www.mdot.Maryland.gov/incentrip](http://www.mdot.Maryland.gov/incentrip)
  - Resources page: <https://mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/Index.aspx?PageId=32>