

Car Free Day 2012 Washington DC Metropolitan Region Event Recap



Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

Special Events

Car Free Day

For the first time since metropolitan Washington started celebrating Car Free Day in 2008, Car Free Day fell on a weekend. The revised logo reflects the family-friendly focus, replacing the businessman in the crosswalk to a family.

Car Free Day is an internationally celebrated day for people to leave their cars at home for the day, and get around by train, bus, bicycle, subway, or walking. People can also go "car lite" by carpooling or vanpooling.

Nearly 7,000 people pledged to go car free or car-lite this year on Saturday, September 22nd for Car Free Day. The weekend event provided the opportunity to extend the reach of the messaging, encouraging all drivers that the same considerations given for weekday commutes can be applied to weekend errands as well. Through a little extra planning for the weekend, it's possible to balance the demands of family life while reducing or eliminating drive alone car trips.



Commuter Connections' network members rose to the weekend challenge as well hosting numerous events and offers for those looking for car-free alternatives. Events which took place across the region included Clarendon Day with 10k and 5k fun runs, Feet in the Street at Fort Dupont hosted by the National Park Service and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), farmers markets street closures in Montgomery County and Calvert County, and other bike and walk activities and challenges across the region.

For people looking to reduce use of their car for the day, at no charge, Bike and Roll offered free bike rentals, and Frederick County TransIT offered free rides on Connector bus routes.

Donated prizes were offered as incentives to people pledging to go car free or car-lite. Local businesses and organizations donating goods or services gained exposure and were associated with a cause that contributed to the betterment of the region's traffic congestion and air quality. Donated prizes included:

- Apple iPad™ courtesy Base Technologies
- Bicycle courtesy BicycleSPACE
- Bike Rentals free rentals on Car Free Day, courtesy Bike & Roll
- Capital Bikeshare annual memberships, courtesy Capital Bikeshare
- CarSharing Memberships -one year membership fee waived, courtesy ZipCar
- CarSharing Rentals free one day car rental, courtesy car2go
- Commuter Rail Passes courtesy Maryland Transit Administration and Virginia Railways Express
- eReader Amazon Kindle, courtesy District Department of Transportation
- Free Lunch 2 slices of pizza and beverage, courtesy Flippin' Pizza.
- Health Club Passes Free 7 day pass, courtesy Sport & Health
- Major League Baseball Tickets to a Nationals Game during the 2013 Season), courtesy Washington Nationals
- Discount Meal 15% off order, courtesy Mellow Mushroom
- Segway Tours Tours for Two, courtesy Capital Segway
- SmarTrip Cards loaded with \$20 of fare, courtesy WMATA (Metro)
- \$500 in Groceries delivered to your doorstep, courtesy of Relay
- 2-layer Buttercream Cake courtesy of Sweet Themez

Media Objectives

The marketing campaign raised public awareness of Car Free Day and challenged drivers to leave their cars home for the day and go car free, reduce the number of trips taken, or go car-lite by carpooling. A family-friendly focus was placed on the campaign to ask drivers to consider some of the same alternative options they use for their weekday commute, and apply them to their weekend errands.

The marketing campaign consisted of radio, text messaging, posters, bus cards and sides, email blasts, online banner ads, social media and an earned media effort. The efforts brought attention to this event and drove the public to www.carfreemetrodc.org to make a pledge to go car free or car-lite.

Radio

Radio was used to inform the public of Car Free Day with a call to action to pledge to go car free or carlite for the day. An exclusive buy was negotiated with Clear Channel with Car Free Day spots running for three weeks in September on the following stations:

- WASH (97.1, Adult Contemporary)
- WBIG (100.3, Classic Rock)
- DC101 (101.1, Rock Alternative)
- WIHT (Hot 99.5, Hit Music)

A :60 second radio spot encouraged listeners to "Park It" for the day and take the pledge by going to www.carfreemetrodc.org.

Car Free Day: 60—JUST PARK IT

A precocious child, speaking as a grown-up, reminds adults that after a tough work week at the same old grind, the weekends are for relaxing and doing fun family activities, not for driving around running errands. It's time to take back the weekend! The announcer reinforces the 'Park It' message and drives listeners to the website to pledge and for more information.

Clear Channel Value Added

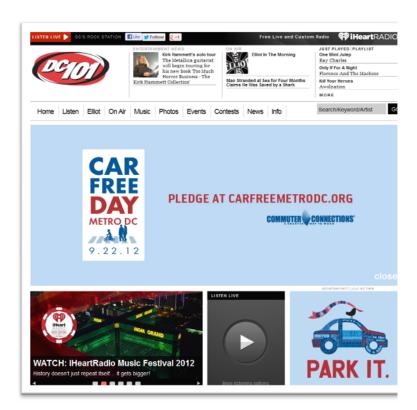
Clear Channel complemented the on-air promotion of Car Free Day with a substantial digital presence as value add including:

Home Page Takeovers

0	WASH	9/21
0	WBIG	9/20
0	HOT99.5	9/13
\circ	DC101	9/19

- Email Blast
 - o WBIG 9/17
- WASH Rewards Featured Link: 9/15-9/21
- Personality Page Sponsorships on HOT & DC101: 9/17-9/21
- ROS Banner Impressions: 9/10-9/21

0	WASH	20,000
0	WBIG	20,000
0	HOT99.5	30,000
0	DC101	25.000



DC101 and WBIG provided tickets to the Maryland Renaissance Festival and promoted a contest rewarding tickets to listeners who pledged to go car free. Winners were selected from the carfreemetrodc.org database.

Text Messaging

Opt-in text messaging was used to encourage additional pledges through word-of-mouth. The messages thanked them for pledging, served as a reminder of the date, and encouraged them to get friends and family to pledge too. Approximately 4,000 text messages were sent out during the campaign.

September 7, 2012

Thanks for pledging to go Car Free on Sept 22. You may win an iPad courtesy of Base Technologies! Get a friend to pledge at http://www.carfreemetrodc.org

September 17, 2012

See full list of raffle prizes for Car Free Day at http://www.carfreemetrodc.org click on Events tab & scroll down. Get your family & friends to pledge today!

September 20, 2012

Park it on Saturday and enjoy the day by going Car Free or Car-Lite in Metro DC. Get a friend to pledge at http://www.carfreemetrodc.org

Logo and Poster

The "Park It" poster depicted a car decorated with family-oriented weekend activities and various weekend transportation modes. The call to action directed people to carfreemetrodc.org to take the pledge and for additional information including street closures and prize giveaways. The poster was sent as an email attachment to nine parenting listserv mailing lists, reaching an estimated 24,000 email accounts in the region. Elements of the new creative were incorporated in the website design, Facebook page, and Twitter account.



Transit Signage

Nearly 400 ad spaces were donated by network members, allowing for placement of Car Free Day signage on buses and transit shelters across the region.

- 40 Arlington Transit (ART) bus cards
- 200 Metro bus cards
- 70 Fairfax Connector bus tails
- 30 Montgomery County Ride On bus kings
- 50 Montgomery County bus shelters







Website

The Car Free Day website was updated to include elements from the new creative, unifying the campaign's digital presence.



Social Media

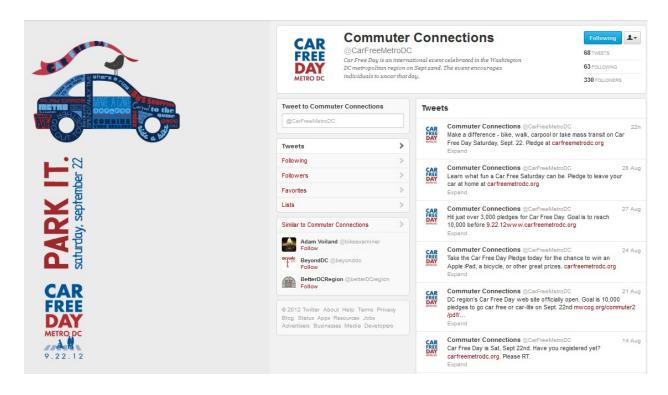
facebook

A Car Free Day Facebook page was used to keep friends of the event up to date on activities prior to and following the event. Car Free Day was "liked" by over 3,100 Facebook fans.





Twitter was used to follow Car Free Day activities in the region as well as to promote Car Free Day activities and sponsors. Car Free Day had 357 followers on Twitter.



Capital Car Free Campus Support

Several area colleges got involved with Car Free Day to encourage faculty, staff and students use transportation alternatives. American University and George Mason University sustainability offices were up to the task. Posters and buttons were sent to the campuses to aid with their promotion of Car Free Day.

Outreach, Sponsorships

The success of Car Free Day involves the support of, and participation from, local communities, organizations, and businesses. The message Commuter Connections imparts on Car Free Day, to consider train, bus, subway, bicycle, carpool, or walking and reduce car usage for a day, or go car free, delivers positive benefits to the region. Traffic congestion is reduced. Air quality is improved. People may use the car free experience to explore the overlooked gems in their own neighborhood. Small and local businesses may benefit. Health benefits may be reaped and the experience may lead to changes in commute and travel behavior. By plugging in to like-minded environmental, transportation, health, and business entities, Car Free Day will continue to grow.

Outreach was used to inform and promote Car Free Day with local businesses and organizations. A pitch was included in the Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington newsletter asking restaurants to support the event. Mellow Mushroom in Adams Morgan responded offering a discount on Car Free Day. Flippin' Pizza, for the second year,



provided coupons for a free lunch on Car Free Day. The efforts of numerous Commuter Connections network members resulted in a considerable list of donated prizes that were raffled off to people who pledged.

Earned Media

Media outreach was conducted in collaboration with COG and its Office of Public Affairs, with a coordinated strategic approach designed to maximize Car Free Day coverage.

A steady flow of media releases built momentum over time, beginning with a calendar listing one month ahead and continuing with three press releases, each focused on a different benefit of participation. The team promoted the following press releases to newspapers, magazines, radio and televisions stations, and social media:

- Press Release #1: August 15, 2012; <u>Car Free Day Pledge Site Now Open!</u>
- Press Release #2: September 10, 2012; <u>Beat the High Price of Gas by Going Car Free on September 22</u>
- Press Release #3: September 19, 2012; There is Still Time to Pledge to Go Car Free Sign up and Win Great Prizes!

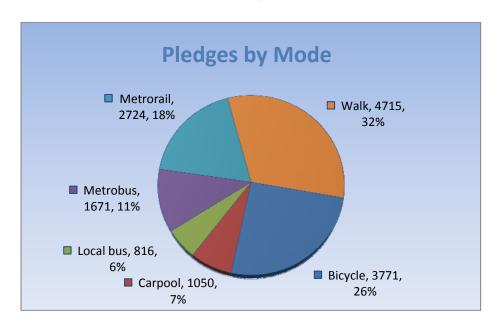
A coordinated media pitching effort followed the distribution of each press release, with direct contact with media outlets throughout the Washington region. The publicity team secured interviews, placed news stories, and drove media to report about Car Free Day. As a result of these efforts, media coverage included the following:

63 Car Free Day Media Placements were made, (see Appendix B) for the full listing.

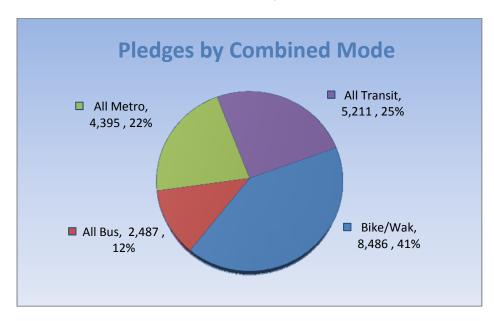


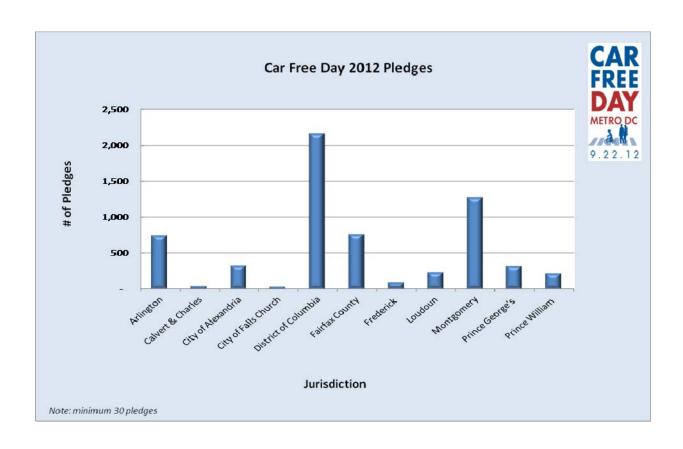
Performance Results

- 6,572 individual pledges were made in 2012.
- 2,780 people (42%) were normally SOV.
- 144,460 miles were collectively reduced or saved overall by all who pledged.
- 77,998 miles were reduced by the SOV group, 54% of the total miles reported.
- Cell phone numbers were provided by 2,158, a third of all participants.



Pledges shown in the pie charts equal a greater number than the total pledges received. This is due to multiple modes reported by the vast majority of participants, in particular when a primary mode was combined with walking.





Emissions Calculations

2012 Emissions factors created using growth between 2017 & 2020 based on 2011 VIN

SOV % 42% As provided in survey data

VT Reduced 6,194 VMT Reduced 347,432

	2012Factors		
NOX	NOX	VOC	
	Commute	Commute	
Cold START (gm/trirp)	0.4886	0.8250	
RUNNING (gm/mile)	0.2754	0.1418	
HOTSOAK (gm/trirp)		0.5447	
Cold Start+ Hot Soak (gm/trip)	-	1.3697	

2012 Factors		
CO2	PM 2.5	
gm/mile	gm/mile	
461.7	0.0115	

Emissions Reduction

	VOC	NOx	PM2.5	CO2
2012 Emissions		tons/da	ay	
Reduced on CFD	0.0637	0.1111	0.0044	177



A Google Analytics report was generated inclusive of statistics from the Car Free Day web site. Nearly 18,000 visits were made by 14,945 unique visitors. Total pageviews were 41,426, and the average number of pages per visit was 2.31, with an average duration of 2 minutes and 13 seconds. The referral report supported the high number of website visits driven by online banner ads seen on WASH FM's web page, providing the second highest referral rate to the Car Free Day website.

	Source	Visits	Pages / Visit	Avg. Visit Duration	% New Visits	Bounce Rate
1.	mwcog.org	691	4.28	00:05:30	53.55%	39.36%
2.	rewards.washfm.com	542	1.28	00:02:26	39.30%	81.92%
3.	wmata.com	504	1.83	00:01:09	97.62%	65.87%
4.	36ohk6dgmcd1n-c.c.yom.mail.yahoo.net	472	2.38	00:02:28	86.65%	27.54%
5.	facebook.com	393	2.31	00:01:56	85.75%	47.84%
6.	reddit.com	355	1.60	00:00:31	96.34%	77.18%
7.	carfreemetrodc.org	277	1.65	00:01:03	89.89%	72.20%
8.	t.co	200	1.84	00:01:32	81.50%	65.50%
9.	livewire.nreca.org	135	1.85	00:01:48	90.37%	48.89%
10.	godcgo.com	134	2.81	00:02:35	82.84%	31.34%

Appendix of Car Free Day Media Placements

Television

Outlet	Contact	Date	Title
News Channel 8; NewsTalk	Bruce DePuyt	9/4/2012	TV interview with Nick Ramfos
The Extra Mile	Monica Samtani	9/4/2012	<u>Television interview with DDOT</u>

News Talk: Interview with Nick Ramfos





The Extra Mile: Interview with DDOT



Radio

Outlet	Contact	Date	Title
WFLS - Fredericksburg	Deidre Blake	9/19/2012	Taped interview with Nick Ramfos
Metro Networks*	Tom Roberts	9/19/2012	Taped interview with Nick Ramfos
WUSA Channel 9	Monica Samtani	9/24/2012	Live radio interview wrap-up with Nick Ramfos

^{*}Metro Networks – Tom Roberts Distributed to 20 affiliate stations: (WAVA 105.1 FM, WBQB 101.5 FM, WFLS 93.3 FM, WFVA 1230 AM, WHUR 96.3 FM, WIAD 94.7 FM, WINC 92.5 FM, WJFK 106.7 FM, WKYS 93.9 FM, WLZL 99.1 FM, WMAL 630 AM, WMMJ 102.3 FM, WPGC 95.5 FM, WPRS 104.1 FM, WTOP 103.5 FM, WYCB 1340 AM) Interviewed August 11, 2011,

Print/Online

Outlet	Contact	Date	Title
	Howard		
Connected Communities	Hartman	8/20/2012	Car Free Day Site Now Open
Bike Arlington		8/20/2012	Car Free Day Site Now Open
			Washington Region to Join the World in
TPB Weekly Report		8/21/2012	Celebrating CFD
			No Escape Terrible Traffic Tuesday
Fairfax News	Fairfax News	9/3/2012	<u>Approaches</u>
			Get Out and Explore DC with Car Free Day
Market Watch	Marketwire	9/4/2012	<u>Sept. 22</u>
			Get Out and Explore DC with Car Free Day
BeforeItsNews.com	Marketwire	9/4/2012	<u>Sept. 22</u>
			Get Out and Explore DC with Car Free Day
NBC News.com	Marketwire	9/4/2012	<u>Sept. 22</u>
			Get Out and Explore DC with Car Free Day
Yahoo.com	Marketwire	9/4/2012	<u>Sept. 22</u>
			School Begins and so Does Terrible Traffic
WUSA Channel 9	Kristen Fisher	9/4/2012	<u>Tuesday</u>
goDCgo		9/4/2012	Car Free Day 2012
			Terrible Traffic Tuesday Drives DC Crazy
CBS DC		9/4/2012	<u>again</u>
Timely Tidbits	RAMW	9/5/2012	Attract New Customers on Car Free Day

Bethesdanow.com	Aarib Kraut	9/17/2012	Car Free Day is Saturday
	Associated		Car Free DC is the goal for sustainable
Wasington Post	Press	9/19/2012	transportation advocates, at least for a day
	Associated		
WTOP, Sprawl & Crawl	Press	9/19/2012	Advocates urge D.C. to go car free for a day
	Associated		
Baltimore CBS Local	Press	9/19/2012	Advocates urge D.C. to go car free for a day
	Associated		
My Fox DC.com	Press	9/19/2012	Advocates urge D.C. to go car free for a day
	Howard		
Connected Communities	Hartman	9/19/2012	There is Still Time to Pledge to Go Car Free
			Ditch your car this week! We double-dog
Grist	Greg Hanscom	9/19/2012	dare you
The Washington Times	Editorial	9/20/2012	A World Without Cars
	DC News in		
Washington Post	Brief	9/20/2012	Saturday is International Car Free Day
Georgetown Patch	Syd Bickers	9/20/2012	Phone interview with Nick
Riehl World View		9/21/2012	Ack! World Car Free Day?
Redefineing Eco		9/21/2012	Break Your Automobile Addiction
Washington DC Local Me		9/21/2012	Safety and Awareness are Key for CFD 2012
Loudon County Traffic		9/21/2012	Car Free Day is Tomorrow
Beyond DC		9/21/2012	The Reason Car-Free Day is on Saturday
Georgetown Patch	Syd Bickers	9/21/2012	Safety and Awareness are Key for CFD 2012
ExpressNightOut.com	Vickey Hallett	9/21/2012	DC Rider - Space Invaders
Washington Post, Post			
Local	Dr. Gridlock	9/21/2012	Car Free Day tomorrow
			Thursday Afternoon Commute Capital
The Wash Cycle		9/21/2012	Bikeshare Day
Bike Arlington	Blogsite	9/22/2012	Happy Car Free Day
The Wash Cycle	Blogsite	9/20/2012	Afternoon Commute
EYA	Blogsite	9/18/2012	Park It - Go Car Free on September 22nd
Life in the Village	Blogsite	9/19/2012	Car Free Day
Bike Arlington Forum	Blogsite	9/22/2012	Happy Car Free Day
			Car Free Day - a Good Time to Reflect on
WABA	Blogsite		<u>Transportation Options</u>
Bike and Roll	Blogsite	8/27/2012	Go Car Free Sept. 22nd

Social Media

Outlet	Contact	Date	Title
			Kill some time with us this blustery Tuesday morning by
Facebook	goDCgo	9/18/2012	taking our Car Free Day Trivia Challenge. You know you
			love online quizzes - see how you score!
Facebook	goDCgo	9/19/2012	Countdown to Car Free Day 2012! Take the pledge today!
			Thanks to everyone who participated in our Car Free Day
			Giveaway! We were overwhelmed by your enthusiastic
Facebook	goDCgo	9/24/2010	responses and hope you all enjoyed the day. Winners
			have been notified by the email addresses you provided,
			so please check and see if you were one of them!
			Please join us this Saturday, 9/22, for Feet in the Street!
			Through a partnership between the National Park Service
Facebook	goDCgo	9/17/2012	and DDOT, this annual event is our official DC street
racesook	802080	3/1//2012	closure for Car Free Day 2012. Come on out and enjoy
			biking, walking, skating and strutting on the beautiful car-
			free streets of Fort Dupont - plus participate in a host of
			fun, family-friendly activities. See you there!
	Bikeshare		We know you like bikes, and we're pretty sure you like
Facebook		9/18/2012	prizesso please help us support Car Free Day this
			Saturday by taking the pledge to go car-free or car-lite!
Facebook	Capital	9/19/2012	Hope all of our members will take the Car Free Pledge
- accordin	Bikeshare	0, -0, -0-	today! It's easy to do and you can win prizes!
		9/21/2012	This Saturday 9/22 is DC Car Free Day!
Twitter	Free in DC		Join @LiveWellDC at "Feet in the Street" Fort Dupont Park
			in SE 10am-4pm, Free!
Twitter	Free in DC	9/22/2012	Today is DC Car Free Day! Join @LiveWellDC at "Feet in
- Witter	1166 111 26	3/22/2012	the Street" Fort Dupont Park in SE 10am-4pm, Free!
Twitter	goDCgo	9/17/2012	Please join us on Sat. for Feet in the Street - DC's official
TWICCI	ворево	3/17/2012	road closure event for #CarFreeDay2012! See you there!
			Free bike rentals from @BikeandRollDC - 1 more great
Twitter	goDCgo	9/17/2012	prize that could be yours when u enter the Car Free Day
			giveaway!
Twitter			Take the #CarFreeDay Trivia Challenge & see what you
	goDCgo 9/18	9/18/2012	REALLY know! Are you as car-free savvy as you think you
			are?
Twitter	Capital	9/18/2012	Have you taken the @CarFreeMetroDC pledge to go car-
. WILLET	Bikeshare	3, 10, 2012	free/car-lite this Saturday Sept. 22? Just a few days left!

Twitter	goDCgo	9/19/2012	Take the #CarFreeDay pledge!
Twitter	goDCgo	9/19/2012	Pledges for #CarFreeDay are just about to hit 4,500. Let's
I WILLEI	gobego	3/13/2012	see if we can hit 5,500 by the end of the day! Please RT!
Twittor	goDCgo	9/20/2012	We made it to over 6,200 #CarFreeDay pledges! What do
Twitter	goDCgo	9/20/2012	you think, DC? How about 8,500 today? Tell a friend!
Twitter	RelayFoods 9/21/2012		Car Free Day is tomorrow, how do you plan to spend it?
iwitter	RelayFoods	9/21/2012	Let our friends @goDCgo know!
Twitter	DDOT DC 9/21/2012		Don't want to run any Saturday errands? "Sorry honey, I'm
Twitter DDOT DC		9/21/2012	car free today." Take the pledge
Twitter	DDOT DC 9/21/2012		It's the Family-Cycle and it's all you need for a Car Free
I witter	DDOT DC	9/21/2012	Day. Take the pledge:
Twitter	Twitter DDOT DC		Happy #CarFreeDay DC! Hope U find a creative way to
I WILLEI	DDOT DC	9/22/2012	celebrate!
Twitter	carfreemetrodc		<u>Various tweets on Commuter Connections</u>