

DENR to Participate in the Best Workplace for Commuters Program

Jason Kennedy, Human Resources

DENR has joined the Best Workplace for Commuters Program, a new public-private sector voluntary program advocating employee commuter benefits. This program will offer innovative solutions to commuting challenges faced by employers and employees. Established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation, this program publicly recognizes employers whose commuter benefits reach a national standard of excellence.

Providing commuter benefits helps employers address limited or expensive parking, reduce traffic congestion, improve employee recruiting and retention, and minimize the environmental impacts associated with drive-alone commuting. Participating companies earn the designation "Best Workplace for Commuters" -a mark of excellence for environmentally and employee-friendly organizations.

Over the next 18 months, DENR will establish various strategies intended to encourage the use of alternatives to driving alone. North Carolina is especially interested in this initiative because of the Ambient Air Quality Improvement Act of 1999, Senate Bill 953, which addresses growing concerns over ground level ozone pollution from motor vehicles and the need to address the increasing vehicle miles traveled and nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions.

By becoming involved with the Best Workplace for Commuters Program we can do our part to reduce the air pollution of 30 million commuters, cut the number of commuting related trips, and reduce the number of commuting-related miles driven on a yearly basis. We encourage everyone to consider alternate modes of commuting as DENR begins the journey to become one of the best workplaces for commuters.

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