

Depending on how you decide to travel to General Assembly, you might be able to offset your travel by taking actions in your community, your church, or your home.

General Assembly OFFSET Travel Guide



July 29-August 2, 2009
Indianapolis

What is a carbon offset?

A carbon offset is the process for reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. One carbon offset represents the reduction of one metric ton of carbon dioxide, or its equivalent in other greenhouse gases. Individuals, companies, or governments purchase carbon offsets to mitigate their own greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, electricity use, and other sources.

Source: Carbon offset, http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Carbon_offset&oldid=232394947

How can I offset my travel to General Assembly?

PLANT A TREE or...

Planting a tree might seem to be a great idea for offsetting your travel through what is known as carbon sequestration.

However when that tree dies, all of the stored carbon

is eventually released into the atmosphere as it decomposes. While planting a tree is a good thing, consider additional ways of offsetting your travel. For every 1,000 miles you fly or drive, you will contribute to the release of approximately .5 metric tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere. Based on that figure, here are three options for making your trip to General Assembly as “carbon neutral” as possible.

1) Make it a community effort

Ask congregation members to support the church in it’s effort to green General Assembly and help you offset your trip. Everyone can take up alternative transportation options to offset members' journeys to GA.

Once you figure out your roundtrip mileage, ask others to bank GA mileage offsets by walking, biking, carpooling or busing. They can't count existing miles if they already do it. For each new mile traveled through

alternative means (or not traveled due to carpooling), that mile counts toward your offset. Keep track of the alternative miles traveled on a spreadsheet or post a graph in a visible location to mark the congregation’s progress.

GO ON A CAR(BON) DIET

Walk, bike, or bus to work, church or the store

Example: Within a 100-person congregation, two people decide to attend GA. Each person has to travel 250 miles round trip. Total travel to/from GA is 500 miles. So, your trip can be offset with the help of 50 people within the congregation who have the means to commit to 10 alternative miles between now and July '09.

ONE CFL CAN REDUCE THE EMISSION OF MORE THAN 1,000 POUNDS OF CO₂ INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.

2) Replace light bulbs

As incandescent light bulbs burn out, replace them with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). Over its lifetime (upwards of ten years), one CFL can reduce the emission of .5 metric tons (more than 1,000 pounds) of CO₂ into the atmosphere. Remember to properly dispose of CFLs.

3) Check out the Green Travel Guide

If you travel by bicycle, carpool, bus, or train, you'll save money and, of course, reduce your CO₂ emissions. For more information on these modes of transportation:

Check out our Green Travel Guide at www.disciples.org

CHECK OUT:

www.goloco.org
www.ridester.com
www.bikeleague.org
www.hypermiling.org
www.cibaride.org (Indy only)
<http://indianapolis.craigslist.com/rid>
www.indygo.net (Indy only)
www.megabus.com/us
www.greyhound.com
www.amtrak.com

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