With these practices in place, you can be recognized for your environmental stewardship. NOACA rewards organizations that foster environmentally friendly transportation options for their employees through its Commuter Choice Awards. Apply for this award and potentially earn a Gold, Silver or Bronze rating and acclaim as a regional leader for encouraging alternative commute choices. Earn bragging rights among your peers for being one of the region’s top organizations for supporting green commuting. NOACA conducts an application process for Commuter Choice Awards during the summer months and recognizes award recipients at its Annual Meeting held in early fall. To see a list of previous award winners and more detail about NOACA’s Commuter Choice Awards, visit noaca.org.

You can also learn more about alternatives to driving alone and tips for greening your commute on NOACA’s website under the Transportation tab.

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is a transportation and environmental planning agency that represents state, county, city, village, and township officials in Greater Cleveland. NOACA addresses the transportation, air quality, and water quality needs of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties. The agency and its partners cooperatively develop and implement plans to ensure that travel throughout the region is safe, cost-effective and environmentally sound. NOACA’s vision is to STRENGTHEN regional cohesion, PRESERVE existing infrastructure, and BUILD a sustainable multimodal transportation system to SUPPORT economic development and ENHANCE quality of life in Northeast Ohio.
NOACA urges the region’s commuters to embrace alternatives to driving alone to work, including carpooling and vanpooling, taking transit, bicycling and walking. Commuters who choose these transportation modes help remove cars from the road, thereby reducing congestion and improving air quality.

NOACA also asks businesses and organizations to encourage their employees to use environmentally friendly modes of transportation by providing facilities and programs that support alternative commuting. For example, employers that provide bike racks, changing areas, lockers and showers can proactively influence their employees’ decision to bike to work.

What can organizations do to support alternative commuting? Check out the following best practices for various transportation modes.

Transit

- Offer employees free or discounted transit passes
- Participate in the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority’s Commuter Advantage Program
- Offer company vehicles (cars, bikes) for use by employees who normally take transit so they can attend off-site meetings
- Support a Guaranteed Ride Home program for transit users and carpoolers

Bicycling and Walking

- Offer secure and covered outdoor bicycle parking
- Offer secure indoor bicycle parking
- Provide showers, lockers and changing rooms for employees who walk or bike to work
- Subsidize employee memberships to off-site bicycle commuter centers such as The Bike Rack in downtown Cleveland

Carpooling and Van Pooling

- Provide coordination or online registration programs to assist employees in car or van pool formation
- Designate preferred parking spaces for carpoolers
- Subsidize commute costs for employees who vanpool

Other Incentives

- Allow telecommuting or flexible work schedules to help alleviate congestion during rush hour
- Encourage participation in the national Commuter Challenge, the Rust Belt Battle or Bike to Work Days
- Promote health benefits and cost savings to employees in on-site programs or through newsletters
- Subsidize the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles
- Provide recharging stations for fuel-efficient cars
- Invest in video-teleconferencing equipment to reduce the need for on-site meetings
- Adopt an environmental sustainability policy