

FEDERAL ETC UPDATES

Employee Transportation Coordinator

FDA AND USDA FOREST SERVICE WIN EMPLOYER RECOGNITION AWARDS



At the 17th annual Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards ceremony held at the National Press Club on June 24, 2014, two of three winners were federal employers. The ceremony recognizes employers that go above and beyond to support commuter programs.

Food and Drug Administration, White Oak, MD – Marketing Award

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the division of the United States Department of Health and Human Services responsible for protecting and promoting the public's health through the regulation and supervision of food and drug safety.

Of the FDA's 5,800 employees, over 500 use vanpools or carpools, more than 250 use public transit, and more than 2,500 telework an average of five-plus days per month.

As part of its marketing efforts, FDA uses both traditional and modern techniques to promote transportation alternatives. Commuter information tables in the cafeteria allow face-to-face contact with employees. The FDA also communicates regularly through email blasts to employees, announcing new alternative commute options, bus schedules, new vanpools forming, and current vanpools with vacancies. Another tried and true method of getting the word out is the traditional cork bulletin board, which displays the latest transportation activity. FDA also supports the use and formation of vanpools by providing on-campus vanpool driver training.

Along with information on ridematching, Guaranteed Ride Home, van and carpools, and bicycling given to new employees during their orientation, employees are given information on bus routes and shuttle buses that the FDA operates to and from various Metro stations.

Additionally, all vanpool and transit riders are eligible to receive a transit subsidy of \$130 per month. The FDA accommodates bicyclists and those who walk to work by offering shower facilities and convenient bike racks, and all FDA shuttle buses are bike-rack equipped. FDA employees have the option of a compressed work schedule and scheduled telework as authorized by their managers.

As evidence of success, the FDA program has seen an increase in the number of vanpools, up 24% to 44 by the end of 2013. In large part due to FDA's tireless marketing efforts, employees reduce 10,130,450 vehicle miles traveled per year, and save 511,639 gallons of gasoline annually.

For more information on FDA's program, contact Jack Carlile at: Email: john.carlile@fda.hhs.gov; Phone: 301.796.6981

USDA Forest Service, Washington, DC – Telework Award

The USDA Forest Service is an agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture that administers 155 national forests and 20 national grasslands that encompass 193 million acres.

Of its 666 employees in the Washington metro area, 310 (47%) participate in the telework program on an average of six days per month. In addition, 190 employees (29%) are equipped and prepared to telework in special situations such as inclement weather.

In 2011, in an effort to care for the land and environment and reduce their carbon footprint, the USDA Forest Service started its telework program. Previously, employees traveled among offices in four facilities

located in Washington and Rosslyn, VA. A merging of locations made the newly renovated historic Sidney Yates Building their new home. The consolidation of offices not only reduced leasing costs by \$5 million annually, it also eliminated \$200,000 per year as shuttle services are no longer needed between work sites.

Telework training sessions through AgLearn, a program that lays out responsibilities and benefits of the telework program, included training that upon completion, identifies those employees eligible to telework. Teleworkers are provided with equipment to perform their jobs from home offices, including laptops and Voice over Internet Protocol, or "softphones," that plug into laptops and receive calls

from other remote locations.

In 2013, the program's success can be measured by the increase in telework hours, as that figure has nearly doubled from 3,700 hours to 7,300 within a year. As a result of its telework program, The USDA Forest Service has shown a reduction of 815,000 vehicle miles traveled per year and saves 41,161 gallons of gasoline annually.

For more information on the USDA Forest Service program, contact Ms. Lenise Lago, Associate Chief, Business Operations Llago@fs.fed.us; Phone: (800) 832-1355

STATE DEPARTMENT WINS BTWD EMPLOYER CHALLENGE

After breaking the record for registrants in 2013, Bike to Work Day (BTWD) 2014 did it again! Held on May 16th, this year's BTWD event had more than 16,800 registered bicyclists, an increase of 14%!

Helping to lead the way was the State Department with 279 riders, of which 89, or 32%, were first time registrants.

State Department employees registered at 38 of the 79 pit stops throughout the region. The top three most attended pit stops for State Department employees were:

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| • VA - Arlington - Rosslyn | 61 registrants |
| • DC - Georgetown Waterfront Park | 25 registrants |
| • DC - Freedom Plaza | 19 registrants |

"By having such terrific passion and enthusiasm for bicycling, the State Department has become a model for other agencies," said Nicholas Ramfos, Director of Commuter Connections.

The State Department joins four other area employers in the top five for this year including National Institutes of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Justice, and Orbital Sciences Corporation.

The continued success and growth of BTWD can be attributed to the influx of new riders each year. "Additionally," said Ramfos, "bicycling to work has lots of potential to grow since the average bike commute in the Washington metropolitan region is 3.4 miles each way, and 17% of all Washington area commuters live less than 5 miles from work."



Bicycling to work is not something one has to do every day. In fact, the average number of days per week for bicycle commuting in the region is three.

So, plan on encouraging your employees to participate next year and see if you can be one of the top regional employers for BTWD 2015!

Watch for more information on BTWD 2015 at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org.

