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News

Washoe RTC Vanpool Program

A potential benefit to employers and employees in Washoe County

Did you know that Washoe Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) offers a subsidized [Vanpool](#) program that employers can further subsidize as a benefit to employees who commute to work? If you are looking to support your employees' transportation needs and reduce your carbon footprint, offering employees a means to vanpool can cut commuting costs, reduce employee commuting miles traveled, and help maintain good local air quality.

There are several compelling reasons why an organization in or near the Truckee Meadows should consider RTC Vanpool as a transportation option for its employees:

1. **Cost Savings:** Vanpooling can significantly reduce commuting costs for employees compared to driving alone. By sharing the cost of leasing, fuel, and maintenance, participants can save money on transportation expenses.

2. **Reduced Parking Demand:** Vanpooling can help alleviate parking congestion at the workplace by reducing the number of single-occupancy vehicles needing parking spaces.
3. **Environmental Impact:** Vanpooling reduces the number of vehicles on the road, leading to lower carbon emissions and improved air quality. This aligns with many businesses' sustainability goals and demonstrates corporate social responsibility.
4. **Employee Retention and Satisfaction:** Offering vanpooling as a transportation option can enhance employee satisfaction and retention by providing a convenient, cost-effective, and stress-free commuting solution. It can also help attract new talent to the organization.
5. **Productivity:** Vanpooling allows employees to use their commute time more effectively. Instead of focusing on driving, they can use the time to relax, catch up on work, or engage in other activities, leading to increased productivity.
6. **Access to Incentives:** RTC Vanpool may offer subsidies to businesses that participate in the program, further enhancing the cost-effectiveness of vanpooling as a transportation solution.

To learn more about the Washoe RTC Vanpool program, BEP's Griffin Hadlock interviewed **Scott Miklos** from Washoe RTC who oversees the RTC Vanpool program and its operations and **Brian Hitchcock** from Commute with Enterprise, which has been contracted to manage the Washoe RTC Vanpool program. Here is a short excerpt from [the interview](#):

What is RTC Vanpool?

Scott:

We contract our Vanpool through Commute with Enterprise, so they provide the vehicle, the maintenance, and the insurance licensing. They check out the drivers, they give them a gas card. What RTC does is provide a subsidy for each group.

How does Vanpool work?

Scott:

You get a group of 5 to 15 people that work at the same place and live close enough or have pickup points that work for them. They set their own times. They set how many people are in the van. The monthly mileage and type of vehicle they use determines the price. The group designates anywhere from one primary driver and a backup to designating everybody as the driver. Enterprise does a driving check on the people that are certified drivers. Then they pick their meeting times, their meeting places, and off they go. It is a month-to-month lease that automatically renews. You will need a 30-day notice to terminate.

How much does RTC Vanpool generally cost?

Scott:

If you're going from Washoe County out to the TRI Center, you're probably driving 1500 miles a month. If you get a minivan for your vanpool, that will cost you around \$1300 plus tax and gas. Then, you deduct the Washoe RTC \$400 subsidy, which leaves you around owing \$900 per month. You split that with five or six people in the vanpool, and that's what your individual cost is. It can be cheap compared to driving your own vehicle.

How much can RTC subsidize to help costs?

Scott:

Commuters receive a \$400 subsidy for 0-3000 miles of travel per month, \$500 for 3001-4000 miles per month, and \$600 for 4001 miles or more per month.

What are the benefits of RTC Vanpool for businesses?

Scott:

Well, I could tell you personally about that, because I was in a vanpool myself at a couple of different companies. I was running the program, but I was also a participant and was able to just meet up with a van and hop in. Then, you could either work, listen to music, send emails, or catch up on sleep while you get to work. Because of this, your employees arrive much more rested and ready to go. On top of that, workplace attendance of Vanpool participants is much higher because they're on a schedule. They're a lot less likely to miss work, especially for a vehicle issue because the vehicles are well taken care of with regular maintenance. Your employees arrive at work on time and ready to work.

For example, I had a company in Southern California that had a vanpool of 5 managers. On their way to work every day they would hold their morning meeting. When they got to work, they'd already got that out of the way and just took off and started getting things going.

Scott:

Another asset with the Vanpool program is the commuter tax incentive. It allows companies to give their employees up to \$315 per month tax-free for Vanpool. They have a pre-tax benefit already set up with the commuter tax incentive. If the employer does that, then it reduces their taxable liabilities by whatever the amount would be.

With the commuter tax incentive, it's much easier to administer than an employee's health benefits. With this program you can go in and out anytime you want.

What's the easiest way for businesses and employees to start participating in the program?

Brian:

Call Scott. He'll get you connected with us. 775-346-POOL (775-346-7665)

Or email me at Brian.Z.Hitchcocki@ehi.com. We'll do a consultation and then we'll figure out how to tailor the program to the best of their employer situation. I will make a tailored program and then, from there, we decide."

Read the [full interview](#) to learn more about RTC's Vanpool program.

For answers to commonly asked questions, visit the Vanpool's [FAQ page](#) and view the [introductory video](#).

Upcoming Events

NDEP Air Pollution Control Webinar Series

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Bureau of Air Pollution Control is offering an educational webinar series. Upcoming webinars include:

Webinar 2: [Source Testing Webinar](#)
August 5, 2024, 9:00am - 11:00am

Webinar 3: [What to Expect During an Inspection Webinar](#)
August 14, 2024, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Webinar 1, [How to Read Your Operating Permit](#) was held July 18, 2024. The webinar was recorded and is available for review at [this link](#). More information is available at the NDEP [homepage](#).

Questions on the webinar series should be directed to Greg Rosenberg at grosenberg@ndep.nv.gov.

Clean Cities Coalition Stakeholders Meeting

Topic: Northern Nevada Clean Cities Coalition

Date: August 7, 2024

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: UNR Redfield Campus, 18600 Wedge Parkway Bldg A, Rm 218, Reno NV
(a virtual attendance option will also be available)

BEP will be hosting a meeting on August 7th to discuss establishing a Reno-Tahoe Clean Cities Coalition. We will discuss the benefits of having a Clean Cities & Community Coalition in northern Nevada, the Coalition Designation Process, what is needed to attain apprentice and full coalition

designation, requirements for stakeholders and potential advisory committee members, potential avenues for funding, outreach opportunities, naming the coalition, the ChargeWest initiative and much more.

If you are interested in attending please contact the BEP hotline at 800-882-3233.

The Public Fleet's Journey to EV Implementation

First Hand Lessons in Making the Transition to Zero Emission Vehicles

BEP is co-hosting an event as part of the Greater Nevada Clean Cities & Communities Coalition along with the Nevada Chapter of FleetPros and the Lake Tahoe Electric Transportation Forum. In this in-depth session, attendees will have the opportunity to learn from experts regarding their first-hand experience making the transition to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) and learn best practices for initial planning and lessons learned for strategies for reducing carbon emissions using renewable diesel and renewable natural gas while bridging the transition to ZEVs.

Date: August 21, 2024

Time: 10am-3pm

Location: Tahoe Blue Events Center, Stateline, NV

Presenters: Bradley Northup, City of Carlsbad, CA, Keith Leech, Sacramento Clean Cities Coalition

Who Should Attend: Public fleet managers, fleet technicians, purchasing agents, sustainability officials, and real estate and facilities managers

Registration: The registration link will be available soon. Keep an eye on the FleetPros Nevada Chapter [website](#) or contact the BEP hotline (800-882-3233) to express interest and we will let you know when the link goes live.

Second Annual Lake Tahoe Electric Transportation Forum 2024

August 22, 2024|8am - 5pm|Tahoe Blue Event Center

The [Lake Tahoe Electric Transportation Forum](#) will bring together local, regional, and national leaders who share a vision of making the Lake Tahoe Basin a world-renowned model of clean transportation. Building on the success of past events, the forum will present rich and innovative content about federal and local grants, other funding opportunities, and successful clean energy programs. Participants will include top policy experts, government representatives, and private sector stakeholders who wish to improve the environmental and economic future of the Lake Tahoe basin.

Nevada BEP is a sponsor for this event and Chris Lynch, BEP Director, is a member of the planning committee.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information. Register at this [link](#).

Battery Recycling Drop Off for Items with Rechargeable Batteries

Cellphones, laptops, tablets, e-toothbrushes, power tool batteries, Bluetooth speakers, e-bike batteries & more!

The Lake Tahoe Electric Transportation Forum is partnering with Redwood Materials and the Nevada BEP to jointly coordinate a Battery Recycling Drop Off Center at the Forum. Residents are encouraged to drop off their old electronics that contain a rechargeable (lithium-ion) battery at the Forum's battery recycling center. The collection is for Forum attendees, members of the local general public, and local businesses.

Do you have rechargeable battery items to recycle? Call the BEP hotline at 800-882-3233 and ask for Chris Lynch if you wish to bring large quantities for recycling so we can appropriately arrange and

prepare. This is a great recycling opportunity that reduces the risk of accidental battery fires being jointly coordinated by BEP, Redwood and the Lake Tahoe Electric Transportation Forum.

Regulatory Updates

Join In On Monthly e-Manifest User Calls

Are you considering going digital with the use of the e-Manifest system? Or do you regularly use e-Manifest for your facility's hazardous waste management operations?

Don't miss out on EPA's monthly e-Manifest User Calls, where you can find out more about EPA's progress with the initiative. The next monthly User Call is on Tuesday, August 6, 2023 at 11AM PST; follow this [link](#) to join the call via Microsoft Teams. More information and past recordings of the webinar can be found [here](#).

All-Hazards Waste Management Planning Tool

New Resource Now Available

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed and launched the [All-Hazards Waste Management Planning Tool](#) to assist emergency managers and planners for all communities (state, local, Tribal, and territorial), and large industrial and municipal facilities. The tool guides users through the process of creating or updating a comprehensive pre-incident plan for managing materials and wastes generated from manmade and natural disasters, and preparing for plan implementation post-incident.

This tool is intended to encourage communities to begin planning for incident response waste management activities that will comply with federal and other applicable regulations, prior to an incident occurring. More information on the tool can be found on a new webpage [here](#).

Sustainability Corner

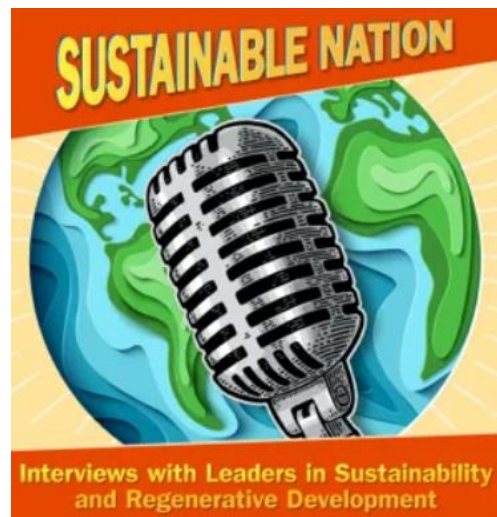
Latest *Sustainable Nation* Podcast

Marissa McInnis, Senior Director of Global Sustainability at Verizon

Host Josh Prigge speaks with Marissa McInnis at Verizon to discuss:

- How to institutionalize sustainability at a large global organization
- Verizon's approach to ESG reporting and highlights from the latest report
- Verizon's renewable energy goals
- Advice and recommendations for sustainability professionals

The *Sustainable Nation Podcast* is made available through a [partnership](#) with the Nevada Business



Environmental Program. Be sure to also check out the full [library](#) of podcasts.

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We look forward to hearing from you.

www.unrbep.org

If you have any environmental or energy questions, do not hesitate to get in touch with us. Our confidential toll-free hotline is taking calls and we are promptly answering all emails. We are staffed from 8am – 5pm, Monday through Friday.

If you are interested in having BEP visit your business for a free on-site assessment, give us a call. We are also available to communicate via calls, photos, and online video meetings.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about why it makes sense to work with BEP!

The Nevada Business Environmental Program is a partnership program funded, in part, by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and Northern Nevada Public Health's Air Quality Management Division.