OP 19: Student Commute Modal Split

2 points available

A. Credit Rationale
This credit recognizes institutions where students use preferable modes of transportation to travel to and from the institution. Commute modal split is a common measure used to evaluate the sustainability performance of a transportation system. Using alternative modes of transportation helps reduce local air pollution and GHG emissions. Walking and biking offer health benefits as well.

B. Criteria
Institution's students commute to and from campus using more sustainable commuting options such as walking, bicycling, vanpooling or carpooling, taking public transportation, riding motorcycles or scooters, riding a campus shuttle, or a combination of these options.

Students who live on campus should be included in the calculation based on how they get to and from their classes.

C. Applicability
This credit applies to all institutions where students attend the physical campus.

D. Scoring
Institutions earn the maximum of 2 points available for this credit by having all students use alternative modes of transportation for getting to and from campus. Incremental points are awarded based on the percentage of students that use alternative modes. For example, an institution for which 50 percent of students use alternative modes and the other 50 percent drive alone would earn 1 point (half of the available points for this credit). Points earned are calculated according to the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Multiply</th>
<th>Total Percentage of Students Using More Sustainable Commuting Options (0-100)</th>
<th>Equals</th>
<th>Total Points Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>=</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Scoring Example: Student Commute Modal Split

Example University students have the following commuting composition:

- 30 percent live on campus (and, therefore, do not drive alone to commute)
- 15 percent walk, bike, or use non-motorized transportation
- 20 percent take campus shuttles or public transportation
- 5 percent carpool

Total percentage using alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle commuting = 30 + 15 + 20 + 5 = 70

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Multiply</th>
<th>Total Percentage of Students Using More Sustainable Commuting Options (0-100)</th>
<th>Equals</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>× 70</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

E. Reporting Fields

Required
- Total percentage of students (graduate and undergraduate) that use more sustainable commuting options (0-100)
- An affirmation that the submitted information is accurate to the best of a responsible party's knowledge and contact information for the responsible party. The responsible party should be a staff member, faculty member, or administrator who can respond to questions regarding the data once submitted and available to the public.

Optional
- The percentage of the institution's students that:
  - Commute with only the driver in the vehicle (excluding motorcycles and scooters) as their primary method of transportation (0-100)
  - Walk, bicycle, or use other non-motorized means as their primary method of transportation (please note that this may include on-campus residents) (0-100)
  - Vanpool or carpool as their primary method of transportation (0-100)
  - Take a campus shuttle or public transportation as their primary method of transportation (0-100)
○ Use a motorcycle, scooter or moped as their primary method of transportation (0-100)

□ A brief description of the method(s) used to gather data about student commuting
□ The website URL where information about sustainable transportation is available
□ Notes about the submission

F. Measurement

Timeframe
Report the most recent data available during the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission.

Sampling and Data Standards
Institutions may use a representative sample to gather data about student commuting behavior. The South Coast Air Quality Management District in California provides guidelines on how to measure commuting behavior (pdf).

This credit is scored based on the percentage of students (graduate and undergraduate) using alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle commuting (i.e. more sustainable commuting options). Students who do not regularly attend the physical campus (i.e. distance education students) may be excluded. It is not required that the various transportation modes reported in the optional reporting fields total 100.