



Bikes Can Provide A Green Transportation Alternative

For decades, Americans have struggled with the **environmental impact** that results from their cars versus the ease and convenience gained from driving those cars. More fuel efficient cars are finally beginning to make their way to the showrooms. While you wait to find that **green car** of your dreams, consider making a bicycle one of your personal transportation options.

In the US, a large percentage of the car trips we make are 3 miles or less – a distance easily managed by bike. Did you know that your car emits more pollutants during the first mile or so of driving? So eliminating short car trips is a great way to **green** your personal transportation.

More Americans seem to be considering these facts, as you can see from first quarter 2009 sales figures. During that period, 2.5 million cars were sold – an impressive number, considering the downturn in the economy in general and in the automobile industry in particular. However, bike sales surged during that 3-month time span to 2.6 million – actually surpassing car sales! So how can you make your bike a practical means of transportation?

Urban Community

Those of us who live close enough to work can **commute on a bicycle** with only a few issues to consider, such as packing along our necessities and managing our work wardrobe. It's definitely more challenging to eliminate car commuting over longer distances. However, many public buses now provide bike racks for commuters. Manufacturers like [Montague](#), [Dahon](#), [SwissBike](#) and [Brompton](#), are also making practical, foldable bikes that can be carried onto buses in a bag. Click on these links to check out area bus service and bike information: [Greensboro Transit Authority's](#) services and policies; High Point's [HiTran](#) system



Folding Mountain Bike

and [PART](#), the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation.

Passengers and Cargo

If using your bike in place of your car will require safe, manageable space for passengers and/or packages, there are lots of bikes and bike accessories designed just for that purpose. Companies are now producing new, innovative designs in tandem bikes, child carriers, accessory trailers, saddle bags and tote bag holders and even cooler boxes for bikes. Check out some of these intriguing options : [Zigo](#), [Madsen Cycles](#) and [Xtracycle](#).

Bike or Car? You can make a difference!