

Introduction

It's Week #19 of CGOP! This week we're taking on Elective Action #25/26. If you missed last week's newsletter, or any one before that, you can find it on our website [here](#).

25/26. Participate in a departmental bike share program or start an employee carpool.

As a reminder, completion of five Elective Actions beyond the Required Actions will earn you Bronze level certification, completion of ten will earn Silver level certification, and fifteen Elective Actions will earn Gold level certification.

Instructions

Elective Action #26: Participate in a departmental bike share program or start an employee carpool (one point available for each).

1. A campus bike share program is something that iSEE and other sustainability organizations on campus have wanted for quite some time now. However, we've never quite been able to get a lasting program off the ground -- but that doesn't mean all bike shares are doomed at UIUC! A smaller, departmental bike share program has just as much potential for lasting impact for your office as a campus-wide one would. There's already at least one departmental bike share on campus in the [Department of Urban & Regional Planning](#), but we'd love to see the list grow.

Though the specifics and scope of a bike share will certainly vary by office and department, here are some general steps to take in order to start one off:

- Send out a survey to your office and/or department to gauge interest in having a bike share, and assuming there is interest, to determine how many bikes might be needed.
- Determine where these bikes would be kept -- is there ample and secure bike storage near your office?
- Ask office members if they have any bikes they would want to donate to the cause, and/or start looking for funding to get the bikes. If you don't have anybody that wants to donate or much money in the budget, you might consider putting together a funding application to the [Student Sustainability Committee](#).

- Remember, it won't just be bikes that you need. Accessories like locks and anything else your office might want should be factored into the budget as well. And do please consider providing helmets!
- Set up a simple system for procuring and returning the bike keys, such as keeping them at the front desk of your office with a sign in/out sheet.
- Make sure that everyone participating is aware of safety tips for biking and how the rules of the road differ for cyclists, as well as campus bike rules.

Specific rules and procedures can be determined for what will best suit your department.

2. As for carpools, we all probably have a pretty good idea of how those work. For as much as carpooling is celebrated as one of the ways to make our transportation greener, it seems to rarely happen in practice. Carpooling is probably the easiest way to cut transportation emissions to and from work for those who live furthest from the office, where they are unlikely to be able to bike or catch the bus. So, it is very important to encourage the benefits of sharing rides, and to remind everyone that the conveniences of having your own vehicle at all times don't always outweigh the harm burning gasoline does to the planet.

Again, the specific setup and rules of your carpool system can probably be pretty easily handled without too much guidance from us, but the biggest job is going to be getting one started in the first place. Don't be afraid to push a little bit!