



# Energy Saving Tips



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## TIP OF THE WEEK

TRAVELLING TO WORK

### Travelling to work

- Take the train, bus or subway to work.
- Join a ride share or carpool.
- Ride a bike or walk if you live close enough.
- Reduce your travel by telecommuting, or working from home whenever possible.
- Use energy efficient lighting in parking lots.
- Green your parking lots.
- Walk the stairs instead of using the elevator.



The road (and parking) space a group of people take up using cars, a bus and bikes





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## Travelling to work

For many people getting to work means driving, and cars mean not only a lot of emissions, traffic jams and related stress, but also a lot of energy (lighting, ventilation, heating) used for parking lots and garages. Fewer cars and thus less parking spaces are needed if you travel green to your workplace!

The ideas below help you minimize car use and green your office parking space.

1. **Take the train, bus or subway to work.**
2. **Join a ride share or carpool.**
3. **Ride a bike or walk** if you live close enough.
4. **Reduce your travel by telecommuting, or working from home** whenever possible. If your workplace is supportive, consider using your home office a day or two per week.
5. **Use energy efficient lighting in parking lots.**  
Lighting the parking lots and garages cost a lot of money and energy. Reducing light levels, installing more efficient light sources (e.g. LED), and adding controls can lead to big savings.
6. **Green your parking lots.** Lower the negative environmental effects of your parking spaces by making them greener – see the tips for champions!

## “Travelling” inside the building: elevators

Elevators represent 3-7% of your building’s energy consumption. They might not be the biggest energy consumers in the building, but still represent a considerable potential for cost and energy savings. **Walk the stairs instead of using the elevator** whenever possible – it also gives you a free workout!



If you use bicycles, less area is needed for parking lots thus increasing green areas and reducing heat from concrete.



Saving energy. Cutting carbon.  
Tips by GreenDependent Institute



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## Top tips for champions

**Turn your parking lot into a park!** Conventional surface parking lots have large areas of asphalt which contribute to the urban heat island effect - raising local air temperature, elevating smog, and increasing energy demand for summer cooling.

Plant native trees and bushes, create green areas in the parking space and try to minimize impervious surfaces. Trees in a parking lot can reduce on-site heat buildup, decrease runoff and enhance night time cool downs.

## You can also...

If you want to increase the popularity of green commuting among employees and reduce the travelled kilometres to the office by car:

- provide employees with support for using public transport;
- provide showers, and bike storage facilities;
- implement and encourage the use of desktop webcams/videoconferencing to reduce travel.

## Did you know?

Conventional elevators can use more power just waiting than while they are moving, thanks to the fans and lights and electronics that run even when the elevator doesn't. However, some newly designed elevators can be smart too: they do not only use but also generate electricity for the building and go into sleep mode when not needed, shutting off the lights and fans when nobody is using them, so in times of renovations consider replacing the old one with a smart one.

## Source(s):

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green\\_parking\\_lots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_parking_lots)



Parking lot at the Technical University of Denmark in Lyngby.

*Image courtesy of Thomas Oles*

