



Why car share reduces congestion:

A 2006 CommunAuto survey (Quebec car share company) found that every car share vehicle:

- replaced 8 individually owned cars;
- led to an 1800 mile reduction in distance driven per member and
- resulted in 44 % reduction in fuel consumption.

In 2003 a study of San Francisco City's car share programme found fully two thirds of members deferred car purchases.

Zipcar ¹ research shows:

- every carshare car takes 15-20 personally-owned vehicles off the road.
- Members drive less. 90% of our members drove 5,500 miles or less per year. That adds up to more than 32 million gallons of crude oil left in the ground—or 219 gallons saved per Zipster.
- Members who were driving 8800 kms a year find after car share its 800 kms.
- Members shed cars: over 40 % of car share members choose against buying a car and many even sell a car.
- Members use other forms of transportation more –they walk, bike, ferry, train or bus- whatever suits best at that time.

Reports Carsharing.net, "Transportation is the life-blood of any economy. And yet, our fast-growing urban centres are faced with increasingly clogged arteries.

"Car Sharing is the "missing link" in our urban transportation systems. The biggest determinant to vehicle use is vehicle ownership. Car Sharing helps people kick the car-owning habit, without going cold turkey, and with the financial reward of saving money.

"Car Sharing should be an important option in every major urban centre. While not a magic bullet to solve all traffic and air quality problems, especially commuter-related issues.

¹ <http://www.zipcar.com/is-it/greenbenefits>



One major impact of carsharing on the transportation system is reduced vehicle ownership. According to nine North American studies, a carsharing vehicle reduces the need for 4.6 to 20 privately owned cars. Thirteen of these studies also document between 15 and 32% of carsharing participants selling a vehicle after joining a carsharing program, and 25 to 71% delaying or foregoing a vehicle purchases. Ten North American impact studies also indicate an average reduction in VMT/VKT of 44% among carsharing members after having joined carsharing.

In addition to reduced vehicle ownership and VMT/VKT, carsharing is associated with lower greenhouse gases and CO2 emissions, as members typically shift trips to public transit, bicycling, and walking. Finally, carsharing demonstrates beneficial social impacts (e.g., increased mobility for lower-income segments). Recent North American studies (2009) have documented that carsharing results in an average net reduction of at least 0.58 tonnes CO2/yr/member and that each carsharing vehicle likely removes between 9 to 12 private cars off the road.²

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² Carsharing parking policy 2010 Transportation Research Record March 2010