

Here is How it Works:

Every time you pay for travel by car or plane or other motorized means, set aside a small additional amount of money to represent the true cost of that travel. When the amount reaches a reasonable sum, bring or send it in.

Suggested amounts are as follows:

Car – 12 cents for each gallon of gas or \$.004 per mile for a car that averages 30 mpg.

Plane – \$.0053 per passenger mile.

Train – \$.0024 per passenger mile.

Intercity Bus – \$.001 per passenger mile.

Commuter Bus – \$.004 per passenger mile.

The dollar amounts are not large, and if it is set aside at the time of purchase, most will not find it too difficult to help pay the true cost of their travel.

Send or bring donations to Yahara Friends Meeting, designating that they are for the *True Cost of Travel Fund*.

A log sheet to help keep track of your *True Cost of Travel* is available for download on our website at:

www.truecost.yaharafriends.org, as well as additional information and details. You can email us at truecost@yaharafriends.org.

Please note that while we consider this program to be one way to live our lives in greater truth, we recognize that everyone's life situation is different. We suggest participation by members and attenders of Yahara Friends Meeting and any other interested persons, at whatever level is right for you.

True Cost of Travel Program
Yahara Friends Meeting
PO Box 14332
Madison, WI 53708

True Cost of Travel

A Quaker Sustainable Travel
Fund



Sponsored by Yahara Friends Meeting
(Quakers)
Madison, Wisconsin

Travel and More Travel, What is the True Cost?

It seems like we are always going somewhere – we drive to work, take the bus to school, walk to the library, drive to Meeting or to the farmers’ market, bike to a friend’s house.

Going farther afield, we may fly to a business conference, drive two states away to the grandparents’ house for the holidays, drive up to the lake for the weekend, or take the train to the shore for a vacation.

All of this traveling has costs. Some of the costs are obvious. We pay the dealer for the car, we pay the state for the license, we pay for gas every time we fill the tank, and we pay the mechanic when repairs are needed. When we fly we pay for our ticket.

Some costs though are less obvious. Consider parking your car. When you drive to the market and park for free in the parking lot, it is not really free. The store owner has to pay for the land the parking lot is on, for clearing snow from it, for lighting it, and so forth. These costs are added to the price of the food you buy at the store. Non-monetary costs of driving a car include noise pollution, dealing with crashes, the barrier effect of roads and highways in our cities, air pollution, and global warming.

Global warming, global weirding, climate change – whatever you prefer to call it, it is a reality that we all worry about and wonder how we can help. The problem is complex, with many contributing factors. Our program addresses just one factor – travel.

As Quakers, we try to be truthful at all times. In addition to speaking truth, this includes how we act and live our lives. One way to live truthfully is to be aware of some of the hidden costs of our actions and take steps to reduce them.

Our program is a small step toward reducing our contribution to global warming. First try to reduce the impact of your travel as much as possible. See our list to the right for some suggestions. Then we offer a voluntary way to help offset the negative impact that remains. We have established a True Cost of Travel Fund, to which you can contribute, that will be used to support the Scattergood Friends School sustainability program. By making a financial contribution to the fund, you are helping to reduce the environmental impact and financial cost of energy to Scattergood, which will also aid them in their core educational mission.

About Scattergood

Scattergood School is a Quaker boarding high school located near West Branch, Iowa. The students and staff are involved in an exciting sustainability program aimed at reducing energy use on the campus and eventually installing a wind generator. For more information about the school see: www.scattergood.org.

Some ways to reduce your travel impact:

The best way to reduce the impact of your travel is to simply travel less. Our “modern” culture is far more mobile than humans have been for most of history and we should consider whether our travel habits can realistically be continued.

- When choosing a place to live, consider how close it is to schools, work, shopping, friends and family.

Before taking a trip:

- Combine trips when possible.
- Consider carpooling.
- Walk or ride a bike.
- Use the phone or the internet when possible to avoid the need to travel.
- Go by bus or train instead of flying.

If you must drive a car, here are some tips:

- Slow down. Wind resistance at higher speeds will significantly reduce your gas mileage. Stick to the speed limit or below.
- Plan ahead. Accelerate slowly and anticipate stops.
- Keep tires fully inflated and remove excess weight from the car.